Studien über den deutschen Einfluß auf das amerikanische Englisch

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To my father,
whose interest in all my undertakings
has been never-failing.

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INTRODUCTION

§ 1

Concerning the Language of the Americans

There has been much lively discussion of the question of the nature of the language which is spoken by the Americans; that is, by the inhabitants of the United States: whether it is a separate and independent language or a dependent and closely associated dialect of English.

On the one side are those who maintain that the language is almost without any difference the same that is spoken and written in England[1]). Gilbert M. Tucker, in his book American English represents this point of view. On the other side are those who hold the opinion that the language of the Americans is as different from that of England as Dutch is from German. The chief exponent of this latter opinion is H. L. Mencken, author of The American Language, who insists that one must now speak of an independent language, the American.

A thorough investigation, however, leads to the conclusion that neither one of these extreme views can be held without qualification. One must rather seek a middle position for the right solution of the question.

The term dialect is insufficient to designate a language spoken by a people so large in numbers and distributed over so large an area as are the Americans. On the other hand, the differences between the speech of the English and that of the Americans, which unquestionably exist, are nervertheless not sufficiently marked to cause the latter to appear as a wholly different language. If one recognizes the existence of noticeable differences without admitting that the speech of the two peoples has yet reached the point where it has branched into two separate lan-

1) H. M. Ayres in Cambridge History of American Literature, IV (1921), xxxi, 572, Footnote: "The language of the people of the United States has been English even more than their institutions and their culture".

guages, one must designate the speech of the Americans by some such name as American English [2]). To make clear the significance of this conclusion, the comparison should rather be made between German as it is spoken in Germany and as it is spoken by educated persons in Switzerland or Austria than between German and Dutch, separated as they are by such an important differentiation as the second consonant shift.

The variations of American English from British English can be briefly stated. Such differences as may relate to pronunciation and intonation will not be considered, since this investigation does not attempt to go into these matters. For the purpose of this investigation, the chief differences of American English from British English are as follows:

1) Comparative uniformity of the language throughout the entire country: There are very few dialects [3]), and the differences between the dialects are comparatively small and unimportant [4]). This fact is apparent not only as between the different states or regions, but also as between the different social classes. The reason is to be found not only in the universal compulsory education of the children, but also in the frequent changes of residence, as well as in the fact, that there is still open the possibility for a sudden rise from a lower to a higher economic and social level.

2) Archaism: Many words which have become obsolete in England, or remain there only in dialect, are still in general use throughout the United States. There are also words which exist in both countries with different meanings, which have the older meaning in America and a newer, changed meaning in England. This phenomenon of archaism is to be observed not only in the vocabulary but also in the syntax [5]).

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2) ELA, I, i, 4—5: "After the Declaration of Independence, American English remained as it always had been, a closely related but differentiated branch of the English language, connected by the most intimate bonds of tradition with the parent speech."

3) There are perhaps three important dialects.

4) E. C. Hills: The English of America and the French of France in Am. Sp. IV (Oct., 1928).: "To an American it is always disconcerting to observe that many otherwise well informed Europeans can not or will not understand our ethnical and linguistic conditions. . . . The truth is that there is probably no other country in the world where there is such a surprising — I might say, such a monotonous — uniformity in social conditions in general and in language in particular".

5) On the other hand, it is also possible for the new meaning to develop in America and the older one to be retained in England. There are, however, fewer cases of this kind than is generally supposed, the archaic meaning often being mistaken for a new one.

3) Inventions: New experiences and different ways of living have often caused the creation of new words and expressions in America.

4) Borrowings and other influences from foreign languages: Not only the aborigines, the Indians, but also the immigrants who have poured continuously into the country have given new words to the language and even to some extent exerted an influence upon syntax and idiom.

Of the foregoing items of differentiation of American English from British English, the last mentioned, that is, the influence through immigration, is the one which will be considered in this investigation; and this item will be here further limited to the determination of the influence of the German element upon the speech of the American people.

§ 2

The Germans in America

From the first appearance of the North American continent in world history, Germans have taken part in the building of the "new world". A German, Tyrker, is said to have taken part in the expedition of Leif Ericson. Moreover, it was a German, Martin Waldseemüller, who, in 1507, first suggested in print the name "America". In the earliest colonial times, there were always Germans — even though in small numbers — among the settlers. There were a few with Captain John Smith among the founders of the first English settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. There were also Germans among the Dutch settlers in New Netherland, covering the area of the present city of New York and area. Indeed, the first governor of this colony, Peter Minuit (Minnewit), 1626—1631, was not Dutch at all, but German. About fifty years later, Jakob Leisler, also a German, became governor of New York, then an English colony. Among the early German settlers in America were not only artisans and laborers, like the settlers at Jamestown, and soldiers and administrators, like Minuit and Leisler, but also explorers and discoverers. During 1669—70, Sir William Berkley, governor of Virginia, sent a German, John Lederer, on three different expeditions to explore the land south and west of the James River. Even in the region now known as Texas, one finds mention of a German, Hiens (Heinz, Hans), a member of the expedition of La Salle in 1687.

At first the Germans came to the colonies as individuals or as single families. Later, however, large groups arrived together and founded purely German settlements. The first of these was Germantown, Pennsylvania, founded in 1683. In the 18th century these purely German settlements developed also in other colonies, particularly in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and the New England colonies. Thus it came about that already before the outbreak of the War of Independence in 1775, Germans were scattered in large numbers throughout the different colonies.

The number of Germans in the colonies before 1775 was approximately as follows:

New England	1 500
New York	25 000
Pennsylvania	110 000
New Jersey	15 000
Maryland & Delaware	20 500
Virginia & West Virginia	25 000
North Carolina	8 000
South Carolina	15 000
Georgia	5 000
Total	225 000 [6])

At that time the Germans constituted about one tenth of the population of the colonies as a whole. In Pennsylvania, one third of the inhabitants were German.

After the War of Independence, the Germans took active part in the great migration of the 19th century toward the West. Their settlements are to be followed in Kentucky and Tennesee, in Ohio — always on the immediate frontier, the borderland between the settled and the unsettled land — at last in the Northwest, and finally on the Pacific Coast.

The German element continually took part in the activities of the people and in all their intimate experiences. In all the wars in which the American people have engaged, there have been German soldiers and officers of courage and distinction.

During the great migration of the 19th century toward the West, mentioned above, in which eventually in the course

6) F a u s t, I, x, 285: "This estimate is very conservative, being based upon estimates of the numbers in known German colonies. The number of scattered German settlers in the large cities, and the number of settlements of which there is no record, must have been quite large. An estimate of two hundred and twenty-five thousand inhabitants of German blood at the outbreak of the Revolution must therefore be regarded as a minimum."

of the century more than five million souls took part, and the frontier was pushed continually farther toward the West, Germans were continually among the pioneers, those at the front, breaking new ways through the wilderness and founding new settlements. When, in 1890, the frontier had vanished, and all the territory to the Pacific Ocean had been conquered and settled, there were Germans to be found in every section, in every state of the Union [7]).

Not only are the citizens and inhabitants of German birth or German descent represented in all regions, but they are also more evenly distributed than the inhabitants of other foreign derivations. In 27 of the 48 states, the German element, in 1900, exceeded the foreign element of all other nationalities combined. In contrast to the Russians, Poles, and Italians, who mostly live in the big cities and in industrial districts, and to the Scandinavians, who for the most part settle on the land, the Germans are almost evenly divided between city and country.

§ 3

German Influence on American Speech

As a result of the participation of the German element for centuries in the common life of the American people, and as a result of their wide and even distribution over the whole country, it is only natural that the Germans should have exerted a marked influence upon all spheres of the life and culture of the people. This influence is quite clearly recognizable in the speech of the Americans. One can ascertain here a direct and an indirect influence:

The direct influence is to be observed in the borrowed words and in the direct translations. The indirect influence shows itself (1) in the strengthening of Germanic tendencies in the language, (2) in the changing or in the retention of meanings of cognate words which now have different meanings in England and in America, (3) in newly invented words or expressions which follow a German model or are suggested by contact with Germans, and (4) possibly in phenomena of syntax.

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7) F a u s t, I, xvii.

It is to be noticed that this German influence was often strengthened by the existence of cognate Dutch words, used by the Dutch in New York. It is often difficult to determine whether a given word is of Dutch or German derivation. For some reason, the Dutch settlement in New York has made a deep impression upon the minds and the imagination of the Americans, so that words are often believed to be of Dutch derivation which, from the locality of their first appearance. so far as that is known, would seem to have nothing to do with the New York settlement. For that reason, because of the ubiquity of the Germans and the restriction of the Dutch principally to New York, it would seem more logical to credit such words to the Germans.

It is the purpose of the following investigation to discuss all the most important contributions of German to American speech. Many words and expressions will be omitted which are pure localisms, or which are too ephemeral to be considered permanent contributions, such as slang expressions which were current for only a short time and are already obsolete. Most of the borrowings into the common English of England and America will also be omitted. Of these, only such will be included as were first Americanisms and later adopted in England, or such as have a special place in American speech, either because they are there more generally known and used, or because, for some other reason, they have a particular association with or use in America.

SINGLE WORDS AND IDIOMS

(alphabetically arranged)

a c h!

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [a x].

2. C o m.: In America this word is used as a quite frequent variant of o h! N E D writes: "Not English unless meant for an emphatic and strongly aspirated form of a h! Used in German and Celtic." S D also says that it is from either German or Celtic, but does not classify it as a foreign word. W e b., which does so classify it, gives only German as the source of derivation. Its use in America is very likely partly due to Celtic, partly to German influence, with perhaps more weight to the German. At least, W e b.'s failure even to mention Celtic would seem so to indicate. I think, too, that when Americans stop to think of the source of this common exclamation, they usually feel that it is German.

a n d h o w!

1. M e a n i n g: And how much! As: "Did you enjoy yourself?" "And how!"

2. Probably a translation of the German phrase of the same meaning: u n d w i e: As: „Hast du dich gut amusiert?" „Und wie!"

3. C o m.: This slang phrase has become very popular in America in the last few years. In fact, it has become almost indispensable. A student in a small college where I was teaching German asked me once: "How do you say 'a n d h o w!' in German?" Of course, he had no realization of the fact that the expression was a borrowing from the German, a fact which seems to be made clear, however, by a note on this phrase in **A m. S p.:**

The origin of a modern slang phrase may be found in a letter of Bayard Taylor to his friend Edmund Clarence Stedman, dated June 16, 1865. The letter is in the collection of Taylor's correspondence in the Huntington Library (Pasadena, California) and is also printed in the Life and Letters of Bayard Taylor by Marie Hansen Taylor, (Boston: 1884) [8]).

The author of this note goes on to quote from Taylor's letter, in which Taylor acknowledges the inspiration which had come to him through a letter from Stedman:

I finished an article for the "Atlantic" that day. As if I were not a "tool of the elements"! And how! as the Germans say (Americanicé — "you'd better believe it!") [9]).

Bayard Taylor was well aquainted with Germany and the Germans, as his History of Germany testifies. The expression and how! did not, however, come into general use during Taylor's lifetime, but is a post-War development. Possibly it was brought back by American soldiers who, during the period following the Armistice, had come in contact with the Germans. Taylor's note is of value as indicating the original source and establishing the fact of American indebtedness to German phraseology for this expression.

ausgespielt

1. Pronounced: ['ausgspi:lt].
2. Meaning: played out, exhausted, used up.
3. Translation of the American expression played out. AL.
4. Com.: This curious word is a mongrel from the German spoken among the Germans in America. As AL (p. 410, ftnt.) comments: "this word has gone into American." It is known and used by many Americans who have no German blood and no knowledge of correct German, either written or spoken. I have heard it from Americans whose knowledge of German is wholly confined to the loan words from that language. It is mentioned, however, only by AL.

back-country.

It has been suggested that back-country is a translation of the German Hinterland [10]), which latter word is a loan

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8) J. R. Schultz (Allegheny College): AND HOW! in Am. Sp. Vol. VIII, (1933).

9) The modern form of the American phrase which Taylor gives as explanation is: believe me! You'd better believe it! is almost obsolete.

10) Walther Fischer: Amerikanisches Englisch in Handbuch der Amerikakunde, p. 171.

word in the common English of England and America. Indeed, in its original meaning, the country back of the sea-coast and navigable rivers, it seems to bear resemblance to Hinterland. Its appearance in America was, however, so early as to cause question as to this derivation. The first quotation that I have seen in which the word back-lands, an earlier cognate of back-country, is used, is one quoted by NED, from the year 1681:

> The back-lands being richer than those that lie by navigable rivers [11]).

This date is two years earlier than that of the first German settlement at Germantown, Pennsylvania. To be sure, if one could prove that the term was introduced by Penn, one might argue that he had spent some time in Germany, and that it was due to his influence there that the Germans came, in 1683, to settle in Pennsylvania. If, on the other hand, the word is one which was already in colloquial use in the colonies at the time when Penn wrote, this solution is more doubtful, although, to be sure, there were individual Germans scattered throughout the colonies from the first.

In the sense of "region back of and tributary to the lands lying on the coast or rivers", the word Hinterland is now quite commonly used. Back-country, as well as its cognates back-lands, backwoods, back-settlements, is now used to denote the rural, less thickly populated sections of the country, those which are still non-urbanized.

bake-oven

1. Meaning: (a) An oven. (b) An iron bake pan. SD, Th.

2. ? < G. Backofen.

3. Com.: Th. gives only meaning (a). Meaning (b) seems to be a derived meaning. Bartlett comments: "This term is often used in the West for the simple word oven in a bakery" [12]). SD and Th. mention no source for this word. Bartlett thinks it comes from the Dutch. A. W. Reed [13]) writes: "Bake-oven, Sir William Craigie thinks, may well be an instance of Germanic influence, but is it not more likely to come thru the Dutch via

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11) William Penn: Account of Pennsylvania (1861), Works (1872), IV, 301. Quoted by NED.

12) John Russel Bartlett: Dictionary of Americanisms, p. 27.

13) Assistant to Sir William Craigie in preparing the Historical Dictionary of American English (HDAE). Sir William Craigie is also one of the editors of the NED.

N. Y.?" [14]). I have, however, as yet found no trace of it as an expression used in New York. Th.'s earliest examples are from Massachusetts, in which colony, as early as the middle of the 18th century, there were German settlements, the result of a direct attempt on the part of the government of the colony to attract Germans, since they had proved such good citizens in Pennsylvania [15]). The first illustration quoted by Th., from the year 1812, shows that the meaning at that time was meaning (a):

> [He] threw it in the bake-oven, which had just before been heated to bake bread [16]).

Later instances come from the "West"; that is, from the Middle West, where there have always been large numbers of Germans. Indeed, it seems to me much more likely that the word is from the German, especially in view of the fact that there have been so many good German bakers in America. The use of the term Dutch oven, which also occurs, could indicate German quite as well as Dutch origin (see Dutch). I have not seen any instances of the word bake-oven in recent literature, but it is a word which, in meaning (a), sounds quite native and familiar to me. Perhaps this is due to the fact that both my parents came from the Middle West. As to meaning (b), I have found neither explanation nor verification in recent literature.

beer garden

1. Meaning: A garden where beer and other liquors are sold and served at tables.

2. Translation of G. Biergarten.

3. Com: This expression is not noted by NED. My memory is that it was best known, before the days of prohibition, in the Middle West, in those sections where there were many Germans. I remember hearing my parents tell, on their return from the World's Fair in St. Louis, that there were beer gardens at this fair. The word, as well as the thing itself in America, is of German origin. With the advent of national prohibition in 1919, the beer garden ceased to flourish. The intervening time has been too short, however, for the word to drop out of memory, or even out of use. It is of a city in the Middle West that Sinclair Lewis is writing, when he uses the word in Arrowsmith:

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14) From a letter of W. A. Reed to Professor Cabell Greet, editor of Am. Sp., dated March 22, 1933. The letter was sent to me by Professor Greet.

15) Faust, I, ix, 253—6.

16) In the Massachusetts Spy, Sept. 2, 1812. Quoted by Th.

"Is there a cool place with some Pilsener here in Detroit — no; where am I to-night? — Minneapolis?"

"I understand there's a good beer-garden. And we can get the trolley right here."

Sondelius stared at him. "Oh, I have a taxi waiting" [17].

b o c k - b e e r

1. Also written b o c k b e e r, b u c k b e e r, and in the shortened form b o c k and b u c k.

2. M e a n i n g: A kind of beer brewed, usually in the spring, from concentrated wort. It contains some five percent of alcohol and much extract. W e b.

3. < G. Bockbier. W e b., W e., Not given by N E D.

4. C o m.: That this word has remained among the American prople in spite of fourteen years of national prohibition succeeding a much longer period of prohibition in many of the individual states is evidenced by the appearance in H a r p e r's M a g a z i n e for July, 1932, of a story, by Lucille Kohler, entitled B o c k B e e r D a y s i n S t. L o u i s, from which the following quotation is taken:

"Bock beer!"

How the words were joy unto our spirits, how they rang like music in our shining ears! Here was a point in the onward course of our childhood from which a few succeeding days would shoot like stars in the firmament. Here was an epoch! . . .

For bock beer was the dark and ripened beverage with which the breweries of old St. Louis hailed the Risen Lord and the end of the Lenten season. All the saloons had it on Easter morning.

b o w e r.

1. Also written b a u e r.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: [bauer].

3. M e a n i n g: In euchre, one of the two highest cards commonly used. The higher is the r i g h t b o w e r, the knave of the trump suit; the other being the l e f t b o w e r, the knave of the same-colored suit as the trump. The joker is often called the b e s t b o w e r. W e b.

4. < G. Bauer. W e b., S D, N E D, W e.

5. C o m.: E n c. B r i t. derives the word from the Dutch b o e r, which of course has the same meaning as B a u e r. This derivation seems unlikely. The pronunciation of b o w e r and

17) S i n c l a i r L e w i s: Arrowsmith, p. 163. (Tauchnitz ed.).

the fact that it is sometimes spelled b a u e r corroborate the etymology of the dictionaries. The use of the word has spread, so that it is no longer confined to the game of euchre (see e u c h r e), but is used in other card games as well, a fact which the dictionaries have as yet failed to record. Personally, I have never played euchre, but I have used the term in other card games.

The first use of the word recorded by T h. is its occurence in a speech by Mr. Bigler of Pennsylvania in the United States Senate, May 28, 1858:

> He uses terms which I do not understand: talking about the "right bower", and "ace", and all that sort of thing [18]).

Although the Senator claimed not to understand the term in 1858, it was commonly known a few years later, as is evidenced by its use in B r e t H a r t e's works, from one of which the following quotation is taken:

> A few of the spectators were, I think, touched by her sufferings. Sandy Tipton thought it was "rough on Sal", and in the contemplation of her condition, for a moment rose superior to the fact that he had an ace and two bowers in his sleeve [19]).

This word, borrowed from the German, is of course not to be confused with the cognate English b o w e r (an arbor, a leafy nook, a lady's room), which still lives, in America as in England, in poetic use.

6. D e r i v e d m e a n i n g: The term r i g h t b o w e r has aquired a further figurative meaning in America; namely, the meaning c h i e f a s s i s t a n t, as in the expression: "He is my **r i g h t b o w e r**".

b u m

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [b ʌ m].
2. M e a n i n g:

N o u n: (1) An idle, dissolute fellow; worthless loafer; bummer. — (2) A spree; debauch. S D.

V e r b: To waste one's time in lounging or dissipation; live by sponging on others. S D.

A d j e c t i v e: Poor, of inferior quality. As: "a bum time, town, taste". W e s e e n.

W e b. gives similar definitions to those of S D. Neither of these dictionaries gives the adjective use, although it is very common.

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18) C o n g. G l o b e, p. 2460. Quoted by Th.

19) B r e t H a r t e: The Luck of Roaring Camp in Prose and Poetry, Vol. I, p. 4. (Tauchnitz ed., Leipzig, 1872).

3. < Am. bummer < G. Bummler, bummeln. We.

4. Com.: AE considers this word a native development in America. Meysenbug suggests the possibility that the borrowing may have been rather Am. < G., citing Jerome K. Jerome's Three Men on a Bummel[20]). However, the evidence points the other way. Kluge cites earlier instances for the appearance of both bummeln and Bummler (bummeln, 1767; Bummler, 1837) than the earliest so far found for the American bummer (1856, Th. — See quotation below). Moreover Jerome's three men were on their bummel in Germany and may be supposed to have picked up the word there.

NED does not give the word bum at all in its American sense, although it does give the earlier, now almost obsolete, bummer, which is also given by Th. In this earlier form, the word acquired the special meaning, during the Civil War, of "a plundering, scouting straggler of the army; an irregular forager". (SD). This meaning, however, became absolete before the word itself was completely replaced by the shortened form bum. The earliest quotation by Th. is of the word in the original form, bummer, with the same meaning which the word bum, as noun, still has. In this quotation, reference is made to the peculiar custom of the pre-prohibition saloon in America of offering free lunches in order to entice men in, on the assumption that they would then buy a drink:

'Pon my word, I'm no bummer. I never ate a lunch in all my life without taking a square drink[21]).

In the same sense of one who sponges, or imposes, upon others, the word bummer was thus explained in 1862:

There are different kinds and qualities of the bummer species. Some are whiskey bummers, some are boarding-house bummers, and some bummers on general principles[22]).

That is, there are bummers who impose upon others for their whiskey, for their food and lodging, or for anything in general.

The word bummer, the original word, has now been almost completely replaced by the shortened form bum, which may be used as noun, verb, or adjective. In all its uses, it is very common and frequent. Some dictionaries give it as slang, others as colloquial. It undoubtedly originated as slang, and in common use distinctly retains the character of slang. It is often used humorously, in this slang sense, by quite respectable people in speaking of or to their friends, as "He bummed around

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20) Amerikanisches Englisch.
21) San Francisco Call, Dec. 25, 1856. Quoted by Th.
22) Rocky Mountain News (Denver, Colorado), May 24, 1862. Quoted by Th.

town all afternoon", "He b u m m e d a meal off me yesterday". (The preposition o f f is commonly associated with the verb in this humorous slang sense). An illustration of this slang sense of the word is found in the following quotation from B a b b i t t, in which Mr. Babbitt so refers to his employes, whom he would hardly have designated as "dissolute", the literal association with the word b u m:

> As Babbitt marched into his private room, a coop with a semi-partition of oak and frosted glass, at the back of the office, he reflected how hard it was to find employees who had his own faith that he was going to make sales. . . .
> As he looked from his own cage into the main room Babbitt mourned, "McGoun's a good stenog., smart's a whip, but Stan Graff and all those bums —" The zest of the spring morning was smothered in the stale office air [23]).

The word is also applied to one who is idle because he has no work to do. Doubtless, the word b u m as applied to the unemployed arose in a time when it was easy to find work in America, and one who had no regular employment was therefore, and with some justification, looked upon as a "worthless loafer". That the name still clings to the unemployed, though the stigma has been recently somewhat removed, is shown by the following quotation from a recent periodical:

> Like most of those I talked with, the old man was in financial troubles. . .
> "Gosh, I have just about lost everything I own", he explained, quite matter-of-factly. "And now I don't know how long I can hang on here". But while he did stick he was happy enough about it and was the heart of generosity to a passing bum like myself [24]).

The original feeling associated with the word b u m as a worthless loafer is illustrated in the following quotation from B a b b i t t, in which Mr. Babbitt rules out all such persons from his goodwill as owner of an automobile:

> It was with the manner of a Good Samaritan that he shouted at a respectable-looking man who was waiting for a trolley car, "Have a lift?" As the man climbed in Babbitt condescended, "Going clear down-town? Whenever I see a fellow waiting for a trolley, I always make it a practice to give him a lift—unless, of course, he looks like a bum" [25]).

The use of b u m as an adjective is illustrated in the following quotation from A r r o w s m i t h, in which the disgruntled Clif Clawson, leaving his fraternity (the Diagamma Pi) accuses his fraternity brothers of being b u m s p o r t s (i. e., poor sportsmen):

> He was ferocious and noisy about it, and it was he who got out. He said that the Digams were a "bunch of bum sports; don't even have a decent game of poker", but he was fleeing from the hard eyes of Angus Duer [26]).

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23) Babbitt, p. 36 (Tauchnitz ed.).
24) A n A m a t e u r o n t h e B u m in the Literary Digest, April 15, 1933.
25) Babbitt, p. 32 (Tauchnitz ed.).
26) A r r o w s m i t h, p. 32 (Tauchnitz ed.).

5. Phrases:

a) on the bum: out of order; not in good condition. As: "May I borrow your pencil? My pen is on the bum."

An illustration of the use of the phrase is afforded by the title of an article in the Literary Digest for April 15, 1933. This article, An Amateur on the Bum, tells the adventures of a young author who, disguising himself, went penniless about New York, finding out at first hand how the unemployed are living. The phrase is further illustrated in the following quotation, in which Babbitt sympathizes with his friend, Paul Rieseling, who is having domestic troubles:

> "Old Paul, your nerves are kind of on the bum. I'm going to take you away. . . . I'm going to have an important deal in New York . . . and I'll need you to advise me on the roof of the building!" [27]).

b) to bum around, to go bumming: to wander around seeking entertainment or employment. There is not necessarily any disparagement intended in this phrase, beyond the inference that one is spending one's time idly and unprofitably. It is so used in the following quotation from Arrowsmith, in which young Martin Arrowsmith, having been dismissed from the university, expresses his intention of so employing his time until he can adjust himself to the situation:

> ". . . Dad Silva's fired me, for general footlessness. I'm going to bum around a little and then get some kind of a job. . . . Say, can you lend me some money?" [28])

c) to give one the bum's rush: to eject forcibly.

I can not remember ever to have heard this phrase personally, and I have found it mentioned only by GA.

-bund

1. Pronounced: [-bund, -bʌnd].
2. Meaning: Association. GA.
3. < G. Bund, -bund.

The word as it exists in German is already found most frequently as the second part of a compound, as in the term Völkerbund, the League of Nations. It is also to be found in compound words characterizing local organizations, such as Sängerbund.

4. Com.: As an isolated word, Bund remains a foreign word in America. Web. thus defines it: "League; confederacy;

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27) Babbitt, p. 66 (Tauchnitz ed.).
28) Arrowsmith, p. 89 (Tauchnitz ed.).

esp. the confederation of German states." This historical meaning is obviously obsolete. As a suffix, however, -bund has found its way into American speech, especially into political speech.

5. Derivatives:

a) Plunderbund (also written plunder bund and plunderbund; pronounced: [plʌnderbund] is a derogatory term, applied to corrupt politicians in league with financial interests to make profits at the expense of the public.

b) Moneybund (also written money bund and money-bund; pronounced: [mʌnibund]) has a similar meaning to plunder-bund. It is a term applied to a group primarily interested in financial gain.

AL (p. 206) writes thus of the words compounded with -bund:

> As for words in -bund, many of them are already almost accepted. Plunder-bund is now almost as good as pork-barrel and slush-fund, and money-bund is frequently heard in Congress. Such locutions creep in stealthily, and are secure before they are suspected.

In an article on political cant, Lowry Charles Wimberly writes:

> That many of cur expressions bespeak the methods of the political trickster and of the "machine" or "ring" need not be taken to mean that we are at all points an ungodly lot and that American politics is wholly corrupt. There is corruption, it is true. . . . But in naming corruption we damn it. The political cheat stands black-charactered in the opprobium of "whitewash", "immunity bath", "Black Horse Cavalry", "protection money", "bigbusiness", "junketing", "plunder bund", and "Teapot Dome" [29].

cranberry

1. Pronounced: ['krxnberi].
2. In the 18th century, also craneberry (pronounced: ['kre : nbberi]). This form has become obsolete.
3. < LG. Kranbeere. We.
4. Com.: This word is properly the name of the North American variety (Vaccinium Macrocarpon) of the fruit of a dwarf shrub, found natively in Europe and Britain in a smaller variety (Vaccinium Oxycoccos). In England, until the late 17th century, the native variety was known by the various names of marsh-whort, fen-whort, fen-bery, marsh-berry, moss-berry. In Germany, the usual name for this

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29) Lowry Charles Wimberly: American Political Cant in Am. Sp., Vol. II, (Dec., 1926).

fruit is Preißelbeere, although dialectically it is known by various other names, among which Grimm gives Sumpfbeere, Moosbeere, which correspond to some of the English names, but also Kranichbeere and Kranbeere (alike in meaning). The word Kranbeere was brought to North America in early colonial days by German settlers and applied to the larger American variety of the berry. Sometime before 1686, this American variety of the fruit was imported to England, and with it the name, which, in the 18th century, was used also in the translated form, craneberry. At present, only the form cranberry survives, a form imitating, not translating, the German Kranbeere. The pronunciation has become anglicized. The word has now been applied, in England, also to the smaller native variety of the fruit. The word cranberry is therefore at present part of the general English vocabulary. It was, however, originally introduced into England from America, where it was a German loan-word. (Cf. NED and We.).

The fruit is a popular one in America, being especially associated with the winter festivals: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and New Year's Day. It is particularly and most intimately associated with Thanksgiving Day, a day of historical and religious significance, by custom celebrated on the last Thursday of November, a solemn proclamation being always made by the president, calling the people to give thanks to God for national blessings. The Thanksgiving Day dinner is primarily a family affair. The meal is quite conventionalized. Among other things, one expects always that the meat will be turkey, and that cranberries will be served.

delicatessen

1. Pronounced: ['deliketesn].
2. Meaning: Table delicacies; delicatessen store, shop where such and other articles of food are sold. GA.
3. < G. Delicatessen F délicatesse. Web.
4. Com.: The term delicatessen store has been abreviated in common American use, so that the first word, delicatessen, stands for the whole phrase and designates the shop where one buys the foods which the word originally signified ("Prepared foods, such as cooked meats, preserves, pickles, relishes, etc." Web.). Americans are very fond of such abreviations. In this case, the original meaning has been practically supplanted by the new one.

Acording to AL (p. 169), the word delicatessen is given in Cassell's New English Dictionary as one which has found its way into British English. Professor Mutschmann, however, doubts that this word has yet been added to British English. An English acquaintance also tells me that it is very rarely heard, never in the American sense of a shop. This meaning, as has been said, is now the common one in America.

I remember that when I was a child, there was a delicatessen not far from our house, to which I was sometimes sent to buy cooked meat, if there had been some disturbance interfering with the usual preparation of dinner, or if company unexpectedly arrived on a day when the meal intended seemed insufficient or inappropriate for guests. The delicatessen flourishes, however, particularly in the crowded sections of large cities, such as the East Side tenement section of New York. I became well acquainted with this section and its delicatessen during the time when I was studying in New York. They are mentioned by Sinclair Lewis as among the sights in New York to which Dr. Martin Arrowsmith grew accustomed on his daily itinerary from his home to his laboratory at McGurk Institute:

> The city of magic was to become to Martin neither a city nor any sort of magic but merely a route: their flat, the subway, the Institute, a favorite inexpensive restaurant, a few streets of laundries and delicatessens and movie theaters [30]).

dingus

1. Pronounced: [dɪŋəs].
2. Meaning: Brit. Eng. what-d'ye-call-it. GA.
3. < LG. Dinges (G. Dings).

Grimm: „dings wird gebraucht, wenn man den namen einer person, sache, eines orts nicht nennen will, oder wenn man nicht kann, weil man ihn gar nicht oder in dem augenblick nicht weiß. jedes geschlecht ist dabei zulässig.

> der dings hat mir das gesagt. die dings wird das besser wissen. das dings geht nicht. . . . wir übernachten in dings.

auch im niederdeutschen,

> ick gink mol spazeieren, da kam ick in dinges. Hausmärchen 3, 241, do hadde ick en grauten tost hore in de hand, de hadde ick den dinges utritten. 252. un sei wüsten wo ick mit den dinges her schlürt was".

4. Com: This word, to whose derivation Professor Mutschmann has called my attention, is not listed in any of the regular dictionaries, nor is it given by Th. Possibly it is

30) Arrowsmith, p. 163 (Tauchnitz ed.).

too recent a development. It is, however, in very general use. Like the German word, and unlike the English thing, dingus can not apply to abstract ideas. It is even more restricted in its application than the German word, in that it applies only to objects, never to persons or places. It usually has a certain humorous sense, and the object to which it refers is usually small or trifling. Like the German word, dingus is used to designate an article whose name is not known or has for the moment been forgotten. The use is illustrated in the following quotation, in which Mr. Babbitt uses it to refer to a sharpener for razor-blades:

> He hunted through the medicine cabinet for a packet of new razor-blades (reflecting, as invariably, "Be cheaper to buy one of those dinguses and strop your own blades") [31].

dollar

1. Pronounced:
2. <LG. daler, cognate with G. Taler < Joachimstaler.
3. Com.: Unlike the other words discussed in this investigation, the word dollar was not directly borrowed from Germany in America, nor is the word in English entirely an Americanism. Nevertheless, I feel that the importance of the American word demands its inclusion here. Kluge gives the early history of the word as follows: „Abkürzung aus Joachimstaler für ‚Gulden aus Joachimstal' (in Böhmen). Seit 1519 wurden in Joachimstal, wo 1516 ein Bergwerk eröffnet worden war, Taler geprägt. Alberus 1540 bucht Taler neben Joachimstaler, wie sich auch Hans Sachs beider Formen bedient. Aus dem deutschen Wort stammen ital. tallero, ndl. daalder, engl. dollar." According to NED and We., the earlier form (16th century) in England was daller or daler < LG. and early modern Du. daler. (Modern Du. is daalder). In England, the name daler, later dollar, was applied to the Spanish peso or piece of eight, a coin formerly current in Spain and the Spanish colonies in America, and largely used in the British North American Colonies at the time of the War of Independence.

After the Thirteen Colonies had gained their independence, this Spanish dollar was made the unit of their new monetary system. To quote NED: "The decimal system of coinage and the dollar were adopted by the Continental Congress on 6 July 1785 . . . , but were not brought into use till 1794, two years after the law of 2 April 1792 establishing the mint."

31) Sinclair Lewis: Babbitt, p. 11 (Tauchnitz ed.)

The suggestion for the adoption of the dollar as the monetary unit seems to have come from Thomas Jefferson, as is indicated by the following quotation from his autobiography:

> I proposed . . . to adopt the Dollar as our Unit of account and payment [32]

The reason for Jefferson's selection of this coin as a unit is given in an earlier writing of his:

> The unit or [Spanish] dollar is a known coin and the most familiar of all to the mind of the people. It is already adopted from south to north [33].

dumb

1. This word has acquired a special meaning in the United States. Web. defines it as follows: "Dull: stupid Colloq., U. S." SD gives the word in this sense as "local U. S." This is, however, a mistake. The word in this sense is commonly known and used in the whole country. According to NED, this meaning was the original one of the common Teutonic adjective, which, however, had already been changed in Gothic, Old Norse, and Old English, in which languages the only sense was mute, speechless. In Old High German it meant stupid, or deaf, or mute. In Old High German it meant stupid, ing was usually stupid, although in early modern German it also meant deaf. "These diverse applications suggest as the original sense some such notion as 'stupid', 'not understanding', which might pass naturally either into 'deaf' or 'dumb'." (NED) Although the only meaning in Old English, according to NED, was mute, speechless, nevertheless, in early modern English there appeared, apparently between the dates 1531—1643, instances of its use in the sense of stupid. Later, this usage seems to have been generally abondoned in England. Its appearance in America is usually credited to the influence of the German dumm.

According to Web., the word is colloquial. It is, however, often used in senses better described as slang. Such a use is found in the phrase dumb like a fox, meaning sly, trikky, which is mentioned by J. Louis Kuethe of Baltimore in an article on Johns Hopkins Jargon in American Speech (Vol. VII). Such slang uses are commented upon in an article in an earlier issue of the same magazine:

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32) (1821) Thomas Jefferson: Autobiography. Writings (1892), I, 74. Quoted by NED.

33) (1782) Thomas Jefferson: Notes on a money unit for U. S. Works, III, 446. Quoted by NED.

Our slang is mainly employed for the purpose of disparagment. Nowhere is this more evident than in such expressions as "She's so dumb, she thinks a colonade is a long drink", or "She's so dumb, the thinks Rex Beach is a summer resort". not implying, of course, that "she" is dumb in the dictionary sense [34]).

A recent use of the term in the American sense by George Bernard Shaw has stirred the antagonism of the whole American people. The occasion was an interview between him and Helen Keller, during which Lady Astor, who was also present, told Mr. Shaw that Helen Keller was deaf and blind. Mr. Shaw is said to have replied: "Why, of course! All Americans are deaf and blind — and dumb!" The Americans, being quite used to such uncomplimentary comments from Europeans, might have found this use of an Americanism to insult Americans rather amusing than otherwise, had it not been for "the idea of using one of the most heroic and the most frequently used of the compounds with dumb. Just pathetic figures of modern times for a joke." [35]) As it is, Mr. Shaw for once failed to amuse the Americans.

2. Compounds:

a) dumb-bell. Also written dumbell. Slang for a dullwitted person. (CG, GA).

This expression may have originated as student slang. It is given in an article on College Slang in American Speech:

Upper classmen subordinate the freshmen in true traditional fashion . . . His inferiority is . . . emphasized when he is called: . . . "a dumb-bell, or "a dumb-rock." [36])

The expression dumb-rock is unknown to me personally, except as it appears in this article.

Another origin for the expression dumb-bell is given in a later issue of American Speech:

Thomas Aloysius Dorgan ("Tad"), cartoonist, sportswriter, and inventor of slang, died on May third, at the age of fifty-two. . . . . His slang inventions appeared in newspapers at home and (translations) abroad. . .

Among the terms which the daily press credits Mr. Dorgan with inventing are:

dumb Dora (stupid girl)
dumbell (stupid person) [37]

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34) F. Walter Pollock: The Current Expansion of Slang in Am. Sp., Vol. II (Dec., 1926)

35) Boston Globe. Quoted in the Literary Digest, April 1, 1933.

36) M. C. McPhee (University of Nebraska): College Slang in Am. Sp., Vol. III (Dec., 1927).

37) W. L. Werner: Tad Dorgan is Dead in Am. Sp., Vol. IV (1928).

Whatever its origin, the expression d u m b - b e l l is propably the most frequently used of th compounds with d u m b. Just what connection, if any, there is between the word d u m b - b e l l as a slang term for a stupid person, and the common English word d u m b - b e l l, an object for exercise in a gymnasium, is not quite clear.

The slang expression d u m b - b e l l is a quite frequent one in daily conversation, especially of the young people, as is illustrated in the following quotation from S i n c l a i r L e w i s's novel B a b b i t t, in which the "Babbitt men", father and son, discuss the young man who is courting Verona (Rone) Babbitt:

> "What do you think of Ken Escott?"
> "I'll tell you, dad: it strikes me Ken is a nice lad; no special faults except he smokes too much; but slow, Lord! Why, if we don't give him a shove the poor dumb-bell never will propose! And Rone is just as bad. Slow." [38])

b) d u m b D o r a. Stupid girl. G A.

The expression is also commented upon in the article on "Tad" Dorgan. (See quotation from Am. Sp. above.). In this expression, alliteration is used to give force and comic effect.

c) d u m b - h e a d, A L, G A.

G A defines this expression as meaning o b j e c t i o n a b l e p e r s o n. However, it must evidently be one who is objectionable because of stupidity. A L (p. 108, ftn.) comments that the expression is "Obviously from the German d u m m k o p f". In an article in American Speech, this expression is given as one of "a group of slang terms for head which are only now appearing, or about to appear, in the dictionaries" [39]).

d) d u m b e g g. This obviously slang expression with the same meaning as the other compounds with d u m b listed above, should be added here. I have not found it among the commentators upon these slang compounds, but I have often heard it in conversations.

e) r u m - d u m b. adj.: Hopelessly drunk. G A

The idea is evidently that the person is s t u p i d w i t h a l c o h o l i c d r i n k. Alcohol, in all its forms, is known in American slang as r u m.

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38) Babbitt, p. 222. (Tauchnitz ed.).

39) M a m i e M e r e d i t h: The Human Head in Slang in Am. Sp., Vol. III, (June, 1928).

Dutch, Dutchie, Dutchman

1. Eng. Dutch, cognate with Du. duitsch, G. deutsch.

2. Com.: Concerning the use of the word Dutch, Fischer writes: „Dutch, der gebräuchlichste Schimpf- und Spottname für den Deutschen." [40] However, the word was in general English 200 years ago, to designate all of the Germanic peoples of the continent of Europe, whether from Germany, Holland, or Switzerland [41], and gave no suggestion of indignity. In common English, the name came at last to be applied only to Hollanders, probably because they were the Dutch nearest to England. The suggestion of ASD (p. 101) that the adoption of Dutch to mean Hollander was because of the Dutch (Holland) settlement in New York fails to take account of the fact that the term was principally applied to the Germans of Pennsylvania, who are to this day most commonly known as the "Pennsylvania Dutch". Probably the retention of the term Dutch in this connection was aided by the similarity of the word to the cognate deutsch. Also in other parts of the country, the Germans were in earlier days known as Dutch, as is shown in the following quotation from an article on Pioneer English in the state of Nebraska:

> Foreign emigrants spoke of settlers who were native citizens as "Americans", and Germans soon learned that they were all "Dutch" to the "Americans" [42].

Although Dutch is now in America, as in England, the recognized designation for a native of Holland, and German the designation for a native of Germany, Dutch still remains in colloquial use for German, the natives of Holland being called Holland Dutch to distinguish them from the Germans. Although sometimes used disparagingly, the word is by no means always so meant or understood. Dutchie, as a diminutive, and Dutchman are used to indicate individual Germans. An illustration of this usage is afforded in the sketch Peter, by Theodore Dreiser, in which the hero so referred to the little German girl whom he afterward married. The following quotation, telling of Peter's first encounter with the girl, indicates the diminutive and affectionate sense:

40) Walther Fischer: Amerikanische Prosa, p. 101.

41) Cf. Schönemann: Die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, I, 336.

42) Melvin Van Den Bark (University of Nebraska): Nebraska Pioneer English in Am. Sp., VII, 13 (Oct., 1931).

It appears that he was walking in some out-of-the-way factory realm of North Philadelphia one Saturday afternoon about the first or second year of his stay there, when, playing in the street with some other children, he saw a girl of not more than thirteen or fourteen who, as he expressed it to me, "came damned near being the prettiest thing I ever saw. She had yellow hair and a short blue dress and pink bows in her hair — and say, Dreiser, when I saw her I stopped flat and said 'me for that' if I have to wait fifteen years! Dutchy — you never saw the beat! . . . She couldn't even talk English yet. Neither could the other kids. They were all sausage — a regular German neighborhood" [43].

Again, later in the story:

"I'm going to marry little Dutchy if she'll have me, and cut out this old-line stuff. You'll have to stand up with me when I do."

In three months the new arrangement was consummated and little Dutchy — or Zuleika, as he subsequently named her — was duly brought to Newark [44].

3. Derivatives:

a) Dutch treat: Treat in which each pays his own way. GA, Th.

Com.: I am not quite sure just why this sort of treat should be considered Dutch. The expression may have grown out of the German reputation for thrift, in contrast to the American tendency to spend lavishly and somewhat showily. Or it may reflect the German individualism and independence. At all events, the custom which it designates has recommended itself to Americans, who are also individualistic and independent, if in a somewhat different manner. The Dutch treat is quite generally observed in casual, impromptu social engagements. Its observance makes it possible for even those of somewhat restricted means to propose a treat, or to participate in one without a feeling of obligation. For this reason, it appeals to the democratic sense of the American. Barrère and Leland define the Dutch treat as "a dinner or drinking where every man pays for himself". This original meaning has been extended, however, to include other social engagements than those concerned with eating or drinking; for example, it might refer to a visit to the theater. It is still, however, most frequently used in connection with a visit to a restaurant or a café. Nevertheless, its chief characteristic is that it is a treat which may be indulged in by one of restricted financial resources, who can afford neither to treat others nor to be put under obligation by being treated by others. It is so used in the following quotation, telling of the situation of the various organizations in America for the purpose of furthering peace:

43) Theodore Dreiser: Peter in Twelve Men, pp. 29—30 (Tauchnitz ed.).

44) Ib., p. 96.

The chief reason for the ineffectiveness of the peace movement is its lack of unity. . . . There are 9 Associations of divers descriptions, 8 serious-minded Committees, 7 Unions, 5 Leagues, 4 Societies, 4 Councils, 3 Institutes, and a miscellaneous assortment of Movements, Alliances, Fellowships, Federations, and Foundations. . . .

There is that rich aristocrat, the Carnegie Endowment: sumptuous offices; flawless banquets to visiting diplomats; directors all in Who's Who, average age, seventy years; budget, $ 687, 846; oppressively respectable. . . . On the other hand, there is that ragamuffin, the Committee on Militarism in Education which consists, for working purposes, of two young men in a dilapidated back room furnished with chairs that must be sat on carefully lest they fall apart; budget, $ 8,000, and they're lucky if they get it; luncheons, if any, fifty cent ones, Dutch treat [45]).

b) to go Dutch. GA.

Com.: This phrase is connected with Dutch treat (see above). To go Dutch is for each one to pay his own way, when two or more are engaged upon any activity involving the spending of money. For example, one may go Dutch on a street-car ride, to the theater, or to a restaurant or cafe.

c) in Dutch: in disfavor. GA.

to get in Dutch: to make a bad impression, as in I got in Dutch with the boss this morning. CG.

Com.: I have never heard an explanation of the origin of this phrase nor of the time when it first came into use. It must have reference to some time or place at which the Germans were in disfavor, locally, probably. It is not mentioned by Th. It is, however, in constant use colloquially, and is by no means new, I have heard it all my life. It is as current to-day as ever, and is used with no thought of any connection whatever with any special nationality or people, whether Dutch or German. I remember, in a small college where I was once teaching German, that one of my students, discovering that a friend of his was in the same class, asked facetiously: "O, are you in Dutch, too?" referring to the language, German, as Dutch, and insinuating that there was apt to be trouble with the subject or with the teacher.

d) to beat the Dutch: To surpass everything. Th.

Com.: Further interesting explanation are given by others; for example: GA: "It beats the Dutch; i. e., the Devil"; ASD: "Beats the Dutch, something extraordinary. 'That beats the Dutch and the Dutch beats the Devil' is the superlative." Barrè and Leland, in the following quotation, suggest an origin of the term:

45) Marcus Duffield: Our Quarreling Pacifists in Harper's Magazine May, 1933.

That beats the Dutch is said of any startling statement or incredible fact. To beggar description or stagger belief. Originally used to express extreme stupidity and obstinacy, a Dutchman being popularly represented as a phlegmatic person whom nothing could move [46]).

No doubt the reason for this belief in the stupidity of the Dutch was their insufficient knowledge of English. Since, on account of the language difficulty, they were slow in understanding what was said to them, they were thought to be stupid.

e) Dutch concert: Noisy party. GA.

Com.: I am not personally familiar with this expression, and I find it mentioned only by GA.

f) Dutch uncle ASD, Th.

Com.: This expression is known only in the phrase to talk to one like a Dutch uncle. ASD remarks: "'I talked to him like a Dutch uncle' probably has a meaning, but what that exactly is or whence the phrase comes is unknown." Th. is a little more specific in giving the following explanation: "To talk to any one like a Dutch uncle is to reprehend him." To illustrate, Th. gives a quotation from the year 1837:

If you keep a cutting didoes, I must talk to you like a Dutch uncle [47]).

Unlike the compiler of ASD, most young people in America know quite well what it means to have someone talk like a Dutch uncle to them. The connection with Dutch must come through the kindly heaviness of the talk, which is solemn, full of dignity, quite kindly, but which leaves no doubt in the mind of the listener that he has been at fault and must mend his ways. At least, that is my remembrance of all such sessions in which I participated as listener. I may have been guilty of talking like a Dutch uncle myself at later periods, but I confess that those Dutch uncle talks in which I participated as listener have left a deeper impression upon my memory.

euchre

We. thinks it possible that the word euchre may have come from Du. joker, a player, "joker". Earlier spellings of the word were uker, yuker. In the Enc. Brit. we read: "The name is supposed by some to be a corruption of écarté, to which game it bears some resemblance; others connect it with

46) Barrère and Leland: A Dictionary of Slang, Jargon, and Cant I, 96.
47) J. C. Neal: Charcoal Sketches, p. 201. Quoted by Th.

the German J u c h s or J u x, a joke, owing to the presence in the pack, or 'deck', of a special card called 'the joker'; but neither derivation is quite satisfactory." Both W e b. and N E D give the origin as uncertain. No authority speaks with certainty or offers a derivation which satisfies even himself. In favor of the possibility of the derivation from the German J u c h s is the early spelling, evidently a spelling by sound. Also the fact that the term b o w e r (q. v.) was first associated with this game seems to indicate some connection with German.

-fest

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [-fest].

2. M e a n i n g: A gathering, usually for some kind of recreation or amusement.

3. < G. Fest, -fest. A L.

4. C o m.: According to A L (p. 206),][". . . The suffix-f e s t . . . came into American from the German and was probably suggested by familiarity with s ä n g e r f e s t (see below). There is no mention of it in any of the dictionaries of Americanisms, and yet, in such forms as t a l k f e s t, g a b f e s t, s w a t f e s t and h o o c h f e s t, it is met with almost daily" [48]). Professor L o u i s e P o u n d writes concerning this suffix: "a foreign suffix which has had even better success than the suffix -s k y in establishing itself as a jocular ending is -f e s t" [49]). Professor P o u n d lists a large number of the derivations formed with this suffix, which might be added to indefinitely, since the suffix is still in the stage of forming new compounds. One strange word in Professor Pound's list is b l o o d f e s t as a term for the World War, as if to indicate that that carnage was a "carnival of blood". Another strange one is e g o f e s t, a term which at first sight would appear self-contradictory. The meaning is, of course, a c e l e b r a t i o n o f o n e s e l f. Doubtless the person's enjoyment of himself is so complete that he seems to himself to be a whole gathering. The hybrid formation of the Latin pronoun with the German suffix adds to the humorous effect.

48) Some of the compounds with -f e s t are to be found in G A, which appeared after the publication of A L.

49) Domestication of the Suffix -fest in Dialect Notes, Vol. IV, Pt. V, 1916. Professor Pound has also written a note on the suffix -sky, which I have mentioned again in this investigation in connection with nit, nix, etc. and -heimer (q. v.).

Probably the best known and most popular of the compounds with -f e s t are those mentioned by A L. Most familiar of all, t a l k f e s t, a gathering at which conversation is the chief diversion, is illustrated in the following quotations. The first is a portion of a conversation between Verona Babbitt and her father concerning the values of life:

> "Father! I was talking to a classmate of mine that's working for the Associated Charities . . . and I feel as though I ought to be doing something worth while like that."
>
> "What do you mean 'worth while'? If you get to be Gruensberg's secretary — maybe you would, if you kept up you shorthand and didn't go sneaking off to concerts and talk-fests every evening — I guess you'll find thirty-five or forty bones [i. e., dollars] a week worth while!" [50]).

The second quotation is taken from an article discussing the difficulties in the way of an attempt to integrate the various peace organizations in the United States:

> The conservative peace groups wanted the coalition to be merely a study conference to talk things over but not to do much. . . . The directors of the liberal groups, on the other hand, felt that they were too busy to indulge in bi-monthly talkfests unless the coalition would actually do something; and their idea of useful activity was to bring pacifist views into focus and through "united front" manifestoes assume leadership in peace affairs [51]).

Next to t a l k f e s t in popularity comes g a b f e s t, which has a very similar meaning. G a b is chatter, usually rather inconsequential talk. A western variant is b u l l f e s t, mentioned by A L in a footnote. B u l l is here used in the American sense of exaggerated, boastful talk. S w a t f e s t, according to Professor Pound, can be either a game of golf or a game of baseball, from the American slang word s w a t, meaning t o h i t [52]). H o o c h f e s t is defined by G A as: "Drunken carousal", from the American slang word h o o c h, meaning: "alcoholic drink, esp. if made and sold illegally; bad whiskey."

The Americans are following German custom in using -f e s t as a suffix. Indeed, as a suffix, or as the second noun of a compound, they have long been familiar with it, as pointed out by A L. The most familiar of these German compounds are S ä n g e r f e s t and S c h ü t z e n f e s t. S ä n g e r f e s t is a word widely known in America, since there are singing groups wherever there are Germans. The word S c h ü t z e n f e s t is, I believe, less generally known. It is known principally in regions where there are fairly large German communities. Both words remain foreign words, and are thought of as such, even when understood and used by Americans.

50) B a b b i t t, p. 20 (Tauchnitz ed.).

51) M a r c u s D u f f i e l d: Our Quarreling Pacifists in Haper's Magazine, May, 1933.

52) Domestication of the Suffix -fest.

frankfurter

1. Also called Frankfurt (Frankfort) sausage.

2. Pronounced: ['frɔeŋkfɔ:rtɔr]

3. Meaning: A kind of highly seasoned small sausage. GA, Web. Web. adds: "usually of a reddish color". This is the same sausage as the one known in Germany as Frankfurter Würstchen. The form frankfurter is another instance of American abreviation. (See delicatessen).

4. < G. Frankfurter, meaning pertaining to Frankfurt. Web. Grimm has no mention of the word.

5. Com.: This small sausage is very popular in America. It is called by various names, of which wienie, shortened from wienerwurst (see wurst) and the still more recent hot dog are now more frequently used. A recent suggestion has been made, in one locality at least, that the too suggestive term hot dog be discontinued and the form frank, a further shortening from frankfurter, be substituted. The word frankfurter, is one of those which, according to AL (p. 106), was contributed by the later German immigrants.

fresh

1. Meaning: impudent, forward, bold.

2. ? < G. frech.

3. Phrase: to get fresh, to take liberties. GA.

4. Com.: There is a belief that the word fresh in its American slang meaning is really the German frech, the spelling fresh being the result of sound substitution, since the sound represented by sh is the nearest one in English to the ch of frech. The meaning of this slang term is identical with frech. AE, feeling quite rightly, I believe, that this use of fresh is not a "real Americanism" in the sense that it originated in America, contends that this is a common English meaning. The illustration quoted to prove this contention does not seem to me very convincing:

> When a fellow is sixteen, he is very fresh [53]).

I have been unable to secure a copy of the book from which the quotation was taken, but in so far as it here stands, there is nothing in the context to indicate that anything other

53) From Kenelm Chillingly, I, 9 (1873). Quoted by AE, Chap. 3, p. 124.

than the usual English meaning of fresh is intended. As it stands, the quotation reminds one of Chaucer's description of the "yong Squyer":

> He was as fresh as is the month of May [54]).

No one has ever suggested that Chaucer meant that the squire was impudent. Moreover, NED does not mention any such meaning for the word as this American slang usage. One can, however, now find ample illustration of it in American fiction. For example, in the following quotation from Babbit, the young salesman uses the term in a semi-apology to his superior:

> Young Graff, the outside salesman, was always hinting that he deserved an increase of commission, and to-day he complained, "I think I ought to get a bonus if I put through the Heiler sale. I'm chasing around and working on it every single evening, almost."
>
> Babbitt . . . turned on Graff:
>
> "Look here, Stan; let's get this clear. . . . What's your Ideal, anyway? Do you want to make money and be a responsible member of the community, or do you want to be a loafer, with no Inspiration or Pep?"
>
> Graff was not so amenable to Vision and Ideals as usual. "You bet I want to make money! That's why I want that bonus! Honest, Mr. Babbitt, I don't want to get fresh, but this Heiler house is a terror. Nobody'll fall for it. The flooring is rotten and the walls are full of cracks" [55]).

Again, we find Martin Arrowsmith using the word in his explanation that impudence has caused his dismissal from the university:

> "What — what's happened?" she fluttered. . . .
>
> "The dean suspended me — being fresh to profs" [56]).

frosh

1. Pronounced: [frɒʃ].

2. Meaning: College slang for freshman, freshmen. GA, CG.

It will be noticed from this definition that the word frosh has the same form for the singular and the plural. As: "Frosh, answer the telephone!" "The frosh are having a meeting." Cf., in this connection, the word fish.

3. < G. Frosch.

Grimm: "in der Pfalz gilt Frösche von Schuljungen."

4. Com.: I have always associated this designation of the freshmen with the fact that tradition requires them to wear small green caps. This custom had seemed to me sufficient

54) Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, 92.
55) Babbitt, p. 69—70. (Tauchnitz ed.)
56) Arrowsmith, p. 91 (Tauchnitz ed.).

provocation to cause some facetious upper-chlassman with at least a school acquaintance with German to apply the term Frosch. The fact that the term Frösche is used in the Palatinate to designate schoolboys seems to establish the connection, since so many of the Germans in America came from that region, especially of the early German settlers, the so-called Pennsylvania Dutch (see Dutch and -heimer). Possibly an additional factor in fixing the term is the similarity in sound between frosh and fresh, by which abreviated term the freshmen are also called.

The use of the word frosh is illustrated in the following quotation, which refers to the custom of fraternity rushing; that is, the entertainment by the fraternity of those new students who are being considered for membership:

> Some very interesting words and phrases are used during fraternity rushing. After the freshmen have left the house and the day's rushing is over the fraternity brothers meet to discuss the frosh and eliminate the undersirable [57]).

The word frosh is included in a list of Stanford Expressions contributed to Am. Sp., with the comment that the list "comprises expressions heard or seen for the first time by the compiler, in the meanings attached to them, during eighteen months at Stanford University" [58]). The use of the term is, however, by no means confined to Stanford University. It was already the usual term for freshmen at the University of Oregon when I was a freshman there in 1909—10. That the term is nationally known and used is shown by its inclusion by GA and CG.

Gesundheit!

1. Pronounced: [gə'zunt(h)ait].

2. Meaning: "(To your) health; — used interjectionally as an expression of well wishing when drinking". Web.

3. < G. Gesundheit. Web., AL.

4. Com.: This word, although as AL (p. 107) remarks, it is known by most Americans, remains a foreign word. It is always thought of as German. Web. gives it as a foreign word.

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57) John Ashton Shidler (Torrance, Cal.): More Stanford Expressions in An Sp., VII (Aug., 1932).

58) William R. Morse (Stanford University): Stanford Expressions in Am. Sp., II (March, 1927).

Perhaps the fact that this word is used in America in drinking healths is quite as conclusive evidence of the German influence upon American drinking habits as are the many German names of alcoholic drinks.

The word G e s u n d h e i t! ist known however in another connection in America. Most children learn that it will be said to them when they sneeze. It is usually said in this connection only to children, and seems to have a certain humorous suggestion, possibly because the foreign sound of the word amuses the child. This custom as well as the word is of course directly borrowed from German.

hamburger

1. A shortened form of h a m b u r g (e r) s t e a k, which expression is also used. The word h a m b u r g e r is also used attributively, as in h a m b u r g e r s a n d w i c h (see quotation below).

2. P r o n o u n c e d: ['hɔembɔrgɔr]

3. M e a n i n g: Fried cake of chopped meat, rissole. G A. W e b. specifies that the meat shall be beef, and states that the cake may be either fried or boiled. More often, however, the meat is mixed beef and pork; and the cakes are usually fried.

4. < G. Hamburger.

5. C o m.: The name of the dish indicates its German origin. I think "deutsches Beefsteak" is the more usual term for this dish in Germany. None of the dictionaries states the time or the place in which the term was first used in America. A L (p. 106) says that it was contributed by "the later immigrants"; i. e., those later than the first settlement in Pennsylvania. G r i m m does not mention the term. Very likely however, it was brought to America by settlers from Hamburg or the region about that city, as seems to have been the case with the word s p i e l (q. v.). At any rate, h a m b u r g e r is a well known article of food in all parts of America. The raw meat, already chopped and ready for frying may be bought in all butcher shops, although it is also often prepared at home. H a m b u r g e r s a n d w i c h e s are served at the quick-lunch restaurants. These sandwiches are made by placing the fried meat cake between the two halves of a round, soft-crusted bun. In the following quotation from sinclair Lewis, it is one of these sandwiches which the policeman is eating when he is found by Dr. Arrowsmith in a lunchwagon; that is, a restaurant built on wheels so that it can be moved:

He wandered to an all-night lunch-wagon, where he gloomily drank coffee. Beside him, seated at the long shelf which served as table, beneath the noble red-glass window with a portrait of George Washington, was a policeman who, as he gnawed a Hamburger sandwich, demanded:

"Say, ain't you this new doctor that's come to assist Pickerbaugh? Seen you at City Hall" [59]).

-heimer

1. Pronounced: [-haimᵊr]

2. < G. -heimer.

3. Com.: This suffix is evidently borrowed from a common ending of surnames of Germans in America, such as Hergesheimer. The American author, Joseph Hergesheimer, is indeed one of the Pennsylvania Germans. It is to be expected that names with this suffix might be frequent in America, especially in the Pennsylvania region, since it is a frequent ending of names in the Palatinate, from which region so many Germans have come to America, especially to Pennsylvania. A similar phenomenon in American English is the suffix -sky, from the Russian or Polish, also a termination to surnames in the original language. (See nit, nix, etc., also -fest.)

AL (p. 206) writes concerning the suffix-heimer: "Several years ago -heimer had a great vogue in slang, and was rapidly done to death. But wiseheimer remains in colloquial use as a facetios synonym for smart-aleck, and after awhile it may gradually acquire dignity. Far lowlier words, in fact, have worked their way in." Meysenbug [60]) also mentions wiseheimer. GA gives it in the still more German form weisenheimer (waiznhaimᵊr), and gives the definition: "shrewd man; forward, conceited man." Another derivative mentioned by GA is nosenheimer, "one interested in others' affairs". To this list might be added smartenheimer, a smart-aleck. An interesting characteristic of the compounds with this suffix is the borrowing of the German linking en between the root word and the suffix. This fails in the form wiseheimer, but is found in the form weisenheimer and in the other two compounds, nosenheimer and smartenheimer. Apart from the compounds here listed, I do not recall any other compounds with this suffix, though there may be still in existence some which have escaped my attention.

59) Arrowsmith, p. 186 (Tauchnitz ed.).

60) Amerikanisches Englisch. Lexikalische Abteilung.

Hessian

1. Meaning: A military or political hireling. GA. NED.

2. Com.: This meaning of the word Hessian arose "from the employment of Hessian troops by the British government in the American War of Independence. During the War of Secession, it was again used in the South as a term of obloquy for the Federal soldiers." (NED). Similar explanations are given by SD and Web. Schönemann comments: „Der Schimpfname ‚Hessian' traf genau wie ‚Palatine' schließlich auch alle Deutschstämmigen in Amerika; noch im Weltkrieg spielte er eine gewisse Rolle" [61]). The role played in the World War by the term Hessian was, however, very insignificant. Other names were much more frequently used. Certainly since that time, the meaning German for Hessian seems to have become entirely obsolete. Indeed, even in the American sense of a hireling, the word seems to be obsolescent. CG indicates as much in the definition: "Hessian, colloquial as a term of contempt, but now passing out of use, being a survival from the hatreds of the American Revolution." The greater interest in and knowledge of other nations than their own, awakened in Americans during and since the War, as well as the efforts of the present generation of American teachers of history to present facts more objectively, have tended to give the word a truer association in the minds of the people.

Many of the Hessian soldiers remained in America after the Revolution, and their descendents feel themselves as members of the "old families" of the country, so that there is a certain sense of aristocracy attached to being a descendent of a genuine Hessian. The name lingers also in place names in the East, as indicated in the following quotation from Arrowsmith, which shows also the connection with aristocracy or semi-aristocracy:

> "I've met your Mrs. McGurk. And Dr. Rippleton Holabird. Met 'em in Hessian Hook. You know it, don't you?"
>
> "No, I — Oh. I've heard of it."
>
> "You know. It's that renovated old part of Brooklyn where writers and economists and all those people, some of them almost as good as the very best, consort with people who are almost as smart as the very smartest." [62])

That the word in the sense of a hireling, although obsolescent, is not yet completely obsolete, is evidenced by its appearance in an article by Professor John Dewey, in which

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61) Schönemann: Die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, I, 287.
62) Arrowsmith, p. 337 (Tauchnitz ed.).

he bitterly attacks the money interests which, for selfish reasons, seem, even before the coming of the financial depression in America, to have instituted an attack upon the public school system:

> I cannot believe that the American public, if the facts can be got before them, will support this campaign.
>
> This is one side of the picture — that which most intelligent people will regard as the bright side of the picture — in this increase of the number going to school and of school facilities. This is the bright side, I say, in spite of the efforts of the hired Hessians of big financial interests to make American people ashamed of what they have done for public education in the United States. There was a dark side, even before the depression came on [63]).

Hessian fly

1. Meaning: "An insect which was supposed to have come over with the Hessians, and which was destructive to wheat." Th. Similar definitions are given by SD and NED.

2. Com.: The supposition that the Hessians were responsible for the introduction of this insect is erroneous (NED). No other explanation of the origin has been found, however, and the name remains. The time and place of the first known appearance of the insect, together with the feeling of the colonists against the Hessians, most probably gave rise to the idea, as seems indicated in the following quotation:

> [The Hessian Fly] was first found in a field of wheat on or near the Hessian encampment in the neighborhood om Brooklyn. This was in the year 1784 [64]).

Another writer gives an earlier date for the appearance of the insect, but still one admitting of the popular explanation of its origin:

> Anterior to the revolutionary war, the Hessian fly was unknown in this country. No allusion to an insect of this kind has been found in any American work, or in the journal of any foreign traveller, nor since its appearance has it been intimated that any of our citizens had ever observed it prior to that date. . . . We regard the year 1779 as most probably the date when its ravages actually commenced [65]).

A still earlier date is given by Köhler:

> Hessenfliege (Cecidomyia destructor), diese bes. dem Weizen so überaus verderbliche Gallmückenart soll 1776 von hessischen Truppen in Stroh nach Amerika gebracht worden sein [66]).

The first printed mention of this insect found by Th. is from the year 1786:

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63) Professor John Dewey: The Crisis in Education in The American Teacher, April, 1933.

64) T. Dwight: Travels, i, 49. New Haven, 1821. Quoted by Th.

65) Dr. Asa Fitch: Pamphlet on the Hessian Fly (1847), pp. 11—12. Quoted by Th.

66) Wörterbuch der Amerikanismen.

We are sorry to find that the Hessian Fly has made its progress so far through New Jersey. . . . A gentleman in the neighborhood of Princeton recommends roasting of wheat in the fall and spring, to prevent injury from the Hessian Fly [67]).

From this last quotation, it is evident that by the year 1786 the term Hessian fly, as well as the thing itself, was well known in America.

hex

1. Pronounced: [heks].
2. Meaning: A witch. GA. Brit. Eng., a hag.
3. < G. Hexe.
4. Com.: The word is also used as a verb, meaning to vex, to annoy, to nag.

The use of the word as a noun in colloquial speech is illustrated in the following quotation from the novel Lummox. by Fannie Hurst, in which the word hex is used by the wife, May Wallenstein, in her complaint to her husband concerning her mother-in-law:

". . . I can't stand no yammering old hex in my affairs, and not get the jimjams."

"You eat those words that you just called my mother."

"Eat 'em? I'll spit 'em out, you mean! Hex — that's what she is. Hex!" [68])

That the word is not confined to the colloquial language, however, is shown by the fact that the author of Lummox uses it not only in the conversation, but also in the narrative comment, as in the following quotation, in which she is describing an old woman who keeps a not too reputable boarding house for sailors:

Behind the fatted mask of her imperturbability, a fear smote Bertha. . . . The eyes of the appraising women, focusing sligthly, were beginning to suspect. And now Annie, soaked old hex, but wise in this form, being a woman, dropping that hop-toad word [69]).

hold on!

1. Meaning: Wait! Stop!
2. Com.: This expression is commonly supposed to be a translation of the German halt an! Its derivation is thus indicated by ASD. AE, however, calls it a "real Americanism"; that is, a new and independent development in America. NED quotes Bartlett as saying that it was "originally a sea

67) In Virginia Gazette, Oct. 18, 1786. Quoted by Th.
68) Fannie Hurst: Lummox, p. 96. (Tauchnitz ed.).
69) Ib., p. 54.

phrase", an explanation which does not account for its etymology. Bristed[70]) cites the expression as the only "marked Teutonism current in America" (!), qualifying even this statement by the further comment: "though this may be only indirectly Teutonic", whatever such an expression may mean. ELA, after quoting these statements of Bristed's, continues: "But of things that are indirectly Teutonic in this way, not one but thousands may be found in any form of English."[71]) True enough. Nevertheless, when a "marked Teutonism" appears in America and not in other places where English is spoken, it seems safe to assume that the large German element in the population may have had some influence in its appearance. (See want in, it listens well, and how!, SYNTAX).

it listens well

1. Also it listens good.

2. Meaning: it sounds good (well). As: "We are planning a dinner to-night and expect you to be there." "That listens good (well)."

3. Com.: This phrase is apparently translated from or modelled after the German phrase: es hört sich gut an. AL (p. 207) calls it a "German loan form". It is a phrase of fairly recent origin, which has become a fairly popular slang expression, in widespread use. It seems not to have made its way into literature as yet, however. I cannot remember to have seen it used, even in recent novels or short stories. Possibly it is too new. Very likely it will make its appearance in the fiction of the next ten years.

katzenjammer

1. Pronounced: ['kəetsndzəemər]

2. Meaning: Blues after alcoholic excess. GA.

3. < G. Katzenjammer.

4. Com.: In addition to the meaning given by GA, which was, like the word itself, taken over from German, the word has in America acquired an additional significance, known to all classes of the people, young and old, even such as have never known the taste of alcohol in any form. For more than thirty years, there has appeared every Sunday in the comic sections

70) Bristed, Charles A.: The English Language in America (in Cambridge Essays; London, 1885). Quoted by ELA.

71) ELA, II, 257.

of large newspapers the cartoon story of two small boys, the Katzenjammer Kids, Hans and Fritz, who annoy their "mama" and a "Captain" of unexplained relationship by every conceivable, and many an inconceivable, prank. They are to American children what Max and Moritz are to German children; but they are naughtier, more boisterous, less amenable to reason, more lacking in good-heartedness than are Max and Moritz. Their name, the Katzenjammer Kids, was doubtless given them because their perfomances were such as to give one the feeling of having over-indulged in alcohol. They speak, as do their "mama" and the "Captain", in a burlesque German-English, easily recognizable, if somewhat exaggerated, as the type of speech which Germans who have "picked up" their English in America are apt to speak. As Richard Atwater writes:

> Americans have laughed, for more years than we can remember, over the fact, disclosed in the Sunday newspapers by The Katzenjammer Kids and on the stage by the "Dutch" comedian of the Weber and Fields tradition, that people of German ancestry living in the United States speak English with a noticeable Teutonic brogue [72]).

An example of this strange dialect is the following quotation, a comment by one of the Kids to an Indian whom he is offering to photograph:

> Mightbe der lady friend could luf you better, Mooseface, if you got der dumbness off'n dot noble look [73]).

Translated into English, this speech would read:

> Your sweetheart might be able to love you better, Mooseface, if the nobleness of your expression were not marred by stupidity.

As can be seen from the quotation, the usual form of the definite article is der, the demonstrative is dot, and such German pronunciation are used as **f** in place of **v**.

The popularity of the Katzenjammer Kids has never been interrupted by such accidents to the outside world as the World War and prohibition. Neither the one nor the other was ever mentioned in the dialogs of the Katzenjammer family, which had sufficient distresses of its own without borrowing from the world of politics, either domestic or international.

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72) Richard Atwater: Introduction to Die Schönste Lengevitch by Kurt M. Stein (Chicago). n. d.

73) From The Enquirer (Cincinnati), Jan. 8., 1933.

ker-

1. Also k a -, k e -, c a -, c h e -, c o -.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: [kər;kə]

3. M e a n i n g: Intensifying prefix denoting noisiness. G A. Th. adds that it is "used exclusively in comic writing."

4. ? < G. g e -.

5. C o m.: The usual explanation of the origin of this prefix is that given by W e b.: "A prefix used in onomatopoeic or echoic forms which imitate the noise or effect produced by the falling of some heavy object; as k e r - p l u n k, k e r - s l o s h, k e r - c h u n k, k e r - s l a m, etc. C o l l o q., U. S." N E D gives the same explanation, which seems to me rather unsatisfactory, since chiefly the second part of the compound is onomatopoeic, the k e r - or k e - having less to do with sound imitation.

There is, however, an ever recurring suggestion that the prefix may be an imitation of the German g e -. W e. thus takes notice of this suggestion: ": Influence of Ger. or Du. g e - of p. p. in such phrases as d i e g l o c k e k a m g e w a c k e l t (Goethe)." A L (p. 99) thus enlarges upon this suggestion:

> A whole series of artificial American words groups itself around the prefix k e r, for example, k e r - f l o p, k e r - s p l a s h, k e r - t h u m p, k e r - b a n g, k e r - p l u n k, k e r - s l a m and k e r - f l u m m o x. This prefix and its onomatopoeic daughters have been borrowed by the English, but Thornton and Ware agree that it is American. Several of my correspondents suggest that it may have been suggested by the German prefix g e - — that it may represent a humorous attempt to make German words by analogy, e. g., g e f l o p, g e - s p l a s h, etc. I pass on the guess for what it is worth. Certainly such American-German words must have been manufactured frequently by the earliest "Dutch" comedians, and it is quite possible that some of them got into the language, and that g e - was subsequently changed to k e r -.

By "Dutch" comedians, "German" of course is meant (see D u t c h, D u t c h i e). There was a time when these "Dutch" comedians were quite popular (see quotation under k a t z e n j a m m e r). If this suggested derivation should prove correct, it must have developed somewhat after this manner: g e - k e - k e r -. The suggestion occours again in an article in American Speech in 1931:

> Although they seldom appear in print, a large group of intensives formed with the prefix k a -, or its variants k e - and k e r - has established itself in the speech of the people of the United States. . . . The origin of the prefix in its various forms is not known. The German g e - comes to mind, and is often suggested, orally at least, as its source; but the connection cannot be proved. Perhaps the new historical dictionary of American English will shed light on the subject [74]).

74) A x h a A k i n s S a d i l i k (Schuyler, Neb.): American Intensives in K a -, K e -, and K e r - in Amer. Sp., Vol VII (1931).

The suggested imitation of the German g e - seems to me not impossible. Americans have always been fascinated by this German prefix, although ignorant of its restricted and functional meaning, and have quoted with delight the sentence, supposed (without foundation) to exemplify the speech of the Pennsylvania Germans:

The cow has over the fence gejumped and has a cabbage gedamaged.

Until, however, the origin of the prefix k e r - has been discovered, the possible connection with the German prefix must, chiefly because of phonetic difficulties, remain unsettled.

The two following quotations illustrate the way in which this American prefix may be used:

Down came the bunch of sacks kerslam on the deck below [75].
For don't you remember, one evening at supper,
When I was about to say grace,
You picked up a dish full of hissing hot pudding,
And threw it ker-slap in my face [76]?

kibitz

1. Also spelled k i b b i t z (in the forms k i b b i t z e e, k i b b i t z e r, and k i b b i t z i n g) in A m. S p., IV, 159. In A m. S p., VII, 443, incorrectly spelled k a b i t z e r.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: [kə'bits].

3. M e a n i n g: (verb): to offer unsolicited advice as a bystander. G A.

k i b i t z e e (noun): person thus advised. G A.
k i b i t z e r (noun): one who kibitzes. G A.

4. < G. Kibitz.

5. C o m.: This word exhibits the phenomenon of the ready change of a word from one part of speech to another in English, especially in American English. K i b i t z means originally in German the small bird which the English call p e e w i t, the same word etymologically, according to G r i m m. The special meaning of the German word from which the American meaning is derived is thus explained by G r i m m: "es knüpft sich übrigens mancher aberglaube an das thier, er gilt für ein unheimliches wesen . . . dient zu zauberei. . . . nordd. nennt man einen, der sich unberufen um anderer leute sachen kümmert, einen 'kibitz' ". The usual present application of the term in this sense is to one who gives unsolicited advice at cards. In this sense, the word was taken over in American speech.

75) F. T. B u l l e n: Way Navy (1899), p. 52. Quoted by N E D and T h.
76) Daily Morning Herald, St. Louis, Jan. 17, 1853. Quoted by T h.

With the American readiness to use a word as any possible part of speech, kibitz promptly became a verb. Or possibly the American kibitz is derived from the German kibitzen < Kibitz. The result was that the American formed the new noun Kibitzer to take the place of the German noun Kibitz. Kibitzee is likewise a derivation from Kibitz, or rather, from the American kibitz.

Kriss Kringle

1. Also Krisking'l. AL.

2. Pronounced: [kris'k(r)iŋl].

3. Meaning: Father Christmas, Santa Claus. GA.

4. < G. Christkindl(ein). SD, Web., AL.

5. Com.: AL (p. 107) comments that the word Kriss Kringle "is from Christkindlein, or Christkind'l, and properly designates, of course, not the patron saint of Christmas, but the child in the manger". Grimm, who does not give the South German form Christkindlein at all, gives the special definition for the corresponding North German form Christkindchen of "weihnachtsgeschenk". Sanders-Wülfing does likewise. It is in the sense of the distributor of gifts that the word has been borrowed in America.

The form of the American word which is found in the dictionaries is Kriss Kringle. AL believes, however, that the form Krisking'l is "that most commonly used in the United States". Certainly, in its pronunciation [kris kiŋl], it is the form more nearly like the German original, the only difference in sound being the substitution of the nasal [ŋ] for the nd [nd].

The term Kriss Kringle (or Krisking'l), although generally known throughout the United States, is not so universally used as Santa Claus, a borrowing from the Dutch. The two terms have, however, become completely identified in meaning. Whether by the name Santa Claus or Kriss Kringle, the idea in the minds of American children is of the good St. Nicolaus, who drives his reindeer from the north on Christmas Eve and fills the stockings hung by the fireplace and loads the Christmas tree. Although not so generally used as Santa Claus, the term Kriss Kringle is more common in America than the British Father Christmas, which term is almost never heard.

lager

1. Shortened from l a g e r b e e r. This latter form is also still in use. W e b., S D, C G.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: [la:gər].

3. M e a n i n g: "A kind of beer made originally in Germany, but now also in other countries; — so called from its being laid up or stored for some months before use." W e b.

4. < G. Lagerbier.

5. C o m.: The word is also known in England, but the earliest quotation recorded by N E D is from America:

> The German drinks his lager, and drinks it apparently in indefinite quantities [77]).

Before the days of prohibition, the word l a g e r was quite universally heard and seen, for the beer was widely advertised. In fact, it is the beer which, as I remember it, was most frequently advertised. In the novel A r r o w s m i t h, Sinclair Lewis, writing of a pre-prohibition period, represents l a g e r as an essential part of what Martin Arrowsmith, in his student days, considered debauches:

> Then Martin had relief in what he considered debauches. Actually they were extremely small debauches; they rarely went beyond too much lager in the adjacent city of Zenith, or the smiles of a factory girl parading the sordid back avenues, but to Martin, with his pride in taut strength, his joy in a clear brain, they afterward seemed tragic [78]).

leading motive

1. Translation of G. L e i t m o t i f.

2. C o m.: The term l e a d i n g m o t i v e is given two definitions by W e b.; namely, "a) A guiding theme. b) leitmotif". It is only in sense b) that the term can claim derivation from the German. S D explains as follows: "l e a d i n g m o t i v e (German l e i t m o t i f), in d r a m a t i c m u s i c, a principal motive or theme. . . . The principle of the l e a d i n g m o t i v e was recognized in the middle of the eighteenth century, but was not elaborately applied until the later works of Richard Wagner". N E D recognizes l e a d i n g m o t i v e as an occasional translation of L e i t m o t i f, which latter word has been borrowed into English on both sides of the Atlantic. The translated form l e a d i n g m o t i v e appears to be in more frequent use in America than in England. Professor Louise

77) From the New York Express, June, 1858. Quoted by Bartlett and N E D.
78) A r r o w s m i t h, p. 25. (Tauchnitz ed.).

Pound[79]) writes that she feels leading motive owes nothing to German. The evidence of NED, SD, and Web, however, as well as the recognized influence of the Germans upon music in the United States, points to German as a source of the term as applied to dramatic music. (See MUSIC NOMENCLATURE.)

living-room

1. Meaning: A sitting-room. SD. — Family parlor. AE.

2. AL (p. 121, ftn.) writes: "It is possible that the American living-room was suggested by the German wohnzimmer".

3. Com.: AE regards this word as a native American development. Its associations are such, however, as to suggest that the word may be, as AL thinks, a translation of Wohnzimmer. In the earlier American homes, the words parlor and sitting-room were used. The sitting-room was also sometimes called the back-parlor, because it was situated back of the parlor, with which it was connected by a double door. This door was usually kept closed. The sitting-room was the one used by the family as its daily gathering place. When there were invited guests, the double doors were opened and the parlor, as well as the sitting-room, was heated. In more recently built houses, these two rooms have merged into one larger general living-room. Sinclair Lewis, describing the living-room of the Babbitt home, remarks:

> It was a room as superior in comfort to the "parlor" of Babbitt's boyhood as his motor was superior to his fahter's buggy [80]).

That is, it was as superior as his automobile was to the horse-driven carriage which his father had owned.

This living-room of the American home is, like the drawing-room in England, the room to which the family and any possible guests "withdraw" at the conclusion of a meal, to continue the conversation in the more confortable chairs there. The word drawing-room is very seldom used in America. When it is used, it always refers not to the living-room of the average home, but to a formal social room in a pretentious house. It has not the sense of intimacy and comfort which clings to the word living-room. This use is illu-

79) In a letter to me, dated March 26, 1933.
80) Babbitt, p. 89 (Tauchnitz ed.).

strated in the following quotation, in which young Dr. Arrowsmith and his wife are represented as feeling awkward and out of place in so much ostentation and grandeur:

> Inside, the vaulted stone hallway opened up like a cathedral. They were embarrassed by the footmen, awed by the automatic elevator, oppressed by a hallway full of vellum folios and Italian chests and a drawing-room full of water-colors, and reduced to rusticity by Capitola's white satin and pearls [81]).

That this use of drawing-room is clearly a distinct usage, and that the living-room is something quite different can be seen by the use of living-room as applied to the Arrowsmith's own more humble place of residence:

> Mrs. Holabird, a white kitten of a woman, helped Leora find a three-room flat with a spacious living-room, in an old house near Gramercy Park, and helped her furnish it with good bits, second-hand. When Martin was permitted to look he cried, "I hope we stay here fifty years!" [82])

Like the German Wohnzimmer, the living-room is the place where the family gathers and where common family activities take place. Here family problems are discussed, here books and magazines are read, here the daily preparation of school lessons may take place of an evening. Such a picture is given in the following quotation:

> In the living-room, in one corner of the davenport, Ted settled down to his Home Study; plain geometry, Cicero, and the agonizing metaphors of Comus [83]).

Unlike the German Wohnzimmer, however, the American living-room is almost never also dining-room. The dining-room in an American home usually contains no sofa or easy chairs. Still, in the modern very small apartments, the two, dining-room and living-room, may be combined.

Whether the name is a translation of the German or an original development in America, the word is very appropriate.

loaf, loafer

1. The form loaf was earlier also sometimes written loafe. It was so written by Walt Whitman. Otherwise, I have seen only loaf.

2. Pronounced: [lo:f; lo:fəʳ]

3. Meanings:

a) loaf, (verb): to idle, to spend time idly.

b) loaf, (noun): idling, being idle.

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81) Arrowsmith, p. 286 (Tauchnitz ed.).

82) Ib., p. 256.

83) Babbitt, p. 74 (Tauchnitz ed.).

c) l o a f e r, (noun): one who l o a f s, who spends time idly. Th. remarks: "An American would have applied the term to the Athenian quidnuncs described by St. Luke."

4. < G. dial. Lofer (= G. Läufer).

5. C o m: Concerning the derivation of this word, A L (p. 106) says that "in all probability" the word came from the German, quoting S D as authority. A L adds: "Another authority says that it originated in a German mispronunciation of l o v e r, i. e., as l o f e r". The name of the other authority is not given, and the suggestion seems to me unlikely, as does Krüger's that is from Du. l o p e n[84]). A S D gives the derivation as from an improbable Du. l a u f e r. Aside from the improbability of the word suggested, I have found no evidence that the American word first appeared in New York, about the only place where the Dutch settled in any very great numbers. W e b. writes: "Orig. uncert.; cf. G.dial. l o o f e n, to run, to go, equiv. to G. l a u f e n"; and N E D has: "Of obscure origin. Lowell's conjecture (adopted in recent Dicts.) that the vb. is ad. Ger. dial. l o f e n = l a u f e n to run, is without foundation; the Ger. vb. has not the alleged sense 'to saunter up and down'. G. landläufer (= LANDLOUPER) has a sense not very remote from that of l o a f e r, but connexion is not very probable". To this conclusion of N E D's, W e. remarks: "N E D rejects connection with LG. l o f e n, Ger. l a u f e n to run, as in l a n d - l ä u f e r, landloper. It would seem however that l o a f e r might have been evolved from the latter word". It seems to me, too, that we must look to the agent noun as the original word, from which the noun l o a f e r was the original derivation and the verb t o l o a f derived from it by back-formation. N E D, after first giving the opinion that the noun l o a f e r is from the verb t o l o a f, adds: "but the sb. may be the source of the vb. by back-formation". This seems to me evidently the case, both from the fact that the meaning as it occurs in the United States could have come only from he German noun, and from the fact that the earliest examples of the word found by T h. are of the noun l o a f e r. It is, of course, the German dialect form which was borrowed, with the long o instead of the ä u as middle vowel.

N E D lists the verb l o a f as "slang" and C G lists it as "colloquial". S D and W e b., however, treat the word as a wholly accepted form.

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84) Schwierigkeiten des Englischen, III, 182.

The word appeared early in England also, an instance occurring in Dickens' American Notes, in which book it is very probably used consciously as an Americanism:

> When we stop to change, some two or three halfdrunken loafers will come loitering out with their hands in their pockets [85]).

In the year 1840, Dana speaks of the word as "newly invented", in a passage giving a clear idea of the meaning and use of the word:

> The men appeared to be the laziest people upon the face of the earth; and indeed . . . there are no people to whom the newly invented Yankee word "loafer" is more applicable than to the Spanish Americans [86]).

The first example of the word cited by Th. is from the year 1835, in which year there appeared in the July number of the Knickerbocker Magazine a witty sketch entitled The Late Ben Smith, Loafer. That such a title was possible indicates that the term was already well known colloquially at least.

These early instances exemplify the use of the noun loafer. As early as 1838, however, the verb loaf had found its way into print, as is evidenced by the following quotation from Charcoal Sketches:

> One night, Mr. Dabbs came home from his "loafing" place — for he "loafs" of an evening like the generality of people — that being the most popular and cheapest amusement extant [87]).

At the present time, the word is quite generally accepted in American speech. Even in England, according to the O E D, the verb loaf and the noun loafer are accepted forms, but the noun loaf is still regarded as slang. In America, the various forms appear in book, newspaper, and periodical. I have found the verb loaf used in a travel advertisement in a recent periodical:

> Loaf and play all the way to California [88]).

Occasionally the word loafer has a certain disreputable sense, possibly because idlers are often considered worthless. It is so used in the following quotation from Dreiser's An American Tragedy, describing the irritation of a young boy at the associations forced upon him in the gospel mission in which his father and mother preached:

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85) (1842) Charles Dickens: American Notes (1850), 130/2. Quoted by N E D.

86) R. H. Dana: Two Years Before the Mast (1840). vii, 17. Quoted by N E D.

87) J. C. Neal: Charcoal Sketches (1883), III, ii, 34. Quoted by N E D and Th.

88) Advertisement of Panama Pacific Line in Literary Digest, April 8, 1933.

Always he had been more irritated than favorably influenced by the types of men and women who came here — mostly men — down-and-out laborers, loafers, drunkards, wastrels, the blotched and helpless who seemed to drift in because they had no other place to go [89]).

However, the sense of the disreputable, if present at all, is no more severe than a criticism of idleness and general worthlessness, as in the following quotation:

"What about it! Why, he gave his rubber boots away, like a darned fool, to old drunken Jimmy Harper, and him loafin' around half the year drunk, and worked around on the ice without any shoes himself. He might 'a' took cold and died [90]).

The usual sense, however, of the various forms, especially of l o a f, both as noun and as verb, is of quite harmless idleness, and is wholly without implied criticism. The following quotation well illustrates this sense, giving merely a picture of the ease and relaxation of evening:

Not till evening, when they smoked before the rough fireplace of the cabin, loafing in chairs made of barrels cushioned with elk skin, could Martin coax him into confidences [91]).

Babbitt, also, means no more than vacation idleness, when he complains, in the following quotation, that he would like to get away from his family for a while and l o a f:

He was fretting, "What a family! I don't know how we all get to scrapping this way. Like to go off some place and be able to hear myself think. . . . Wear old pants, and loaf, and cuss." [92])

Männerchor

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [ˈmenəʳkəːʳ]

2. M e a n i n g: A chorus, choir, or singing society composed entirely of men. S D.

3. < G. Männerchor.

4. C o m.: S D does not designate this word as foreign. W e b., however, does, and defines it as: "A German men's chorus or singing club." This seems to me also to be the case. Although most Americans are probably familiar with the term, they use it, if at all, to designate a chorus or choir as a m e n's c h o r u s, which expression may very likely be a translation of the German M ä n n e r c h o r.

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89) T h e o d o r e D r e i s e r: An American Tragedy, p. 13 (London).

90) T h e o d o r e D r e i s e r: A Doer of the Word in Twelve Men, pp. 59—60 (Tauchnitz ed.).

91) A r r o w s m i t h, p. 383 (Tauchnitz ed.).

92) B a b b i t t, pp. 73—4 (Tauchnitz ed.).

meld

1. Pronounced: [meld].

2. Meaning: A term used in the game of pinocle (q. o.).

3. < G. melden.

4. Com.: The word meld, which may be used either as a noun or as a verb, is thus explained by Web.: "Meld. in pinocle, to declare or announce for a score; as to meld four kings. A player can meld only after winning the previous trick, and before drawing from the stock. (Noun) Any combination or score which may be declared, or melded, in pinocle."

men's chorus

(See Männerchor)

mit

1. Pronounced: [mit].

2. < G. mit.

3. Com.: This word, although still a foreign word in America, is known and understood by most Americans, perhaps because of its occurrence in the conversations of the Katzenjammer family (see katzenjammer). It is often used to give a certain light and humorous tone, as in the following quotation, in which Babbitt, because he is on a serious errand, must deal diplomatically with a delicate situation, begins lightly, anxious to appear gay, casual, and unconcerned:

> "Say, could I borrow your thermos — just dropped in to see if I could borrow your thermos bottle. We're going to have a toboggan party — want to take some coffee mit" [93].

The fact that the word appears in the text in italics indicates that it is regarded as foreign, although the quotation clearly shows that it is a word fully understood in the circle in which Babbitt moved; namely, that of the average middle-class American.

nit, nix, etc.

A contributor to American Speech lists the following American substitutes for the word no:

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93) Babbitt, pp. 234—5 (Tauchnitz ed.).

nope	nah
nit	naw
nitsky	aber nit
nix	not on your life
nixy	nay, nay Pauline [94]

Of these ten substitutes, five (nit, nitsky, nix, nixy, and aber nit) are obviously < G. nicht (dial. nit), nichts (dial. nix), and aber nicht (nit). Of these, nix (also written nicks) is recorded by NED as having been a part of English cant before 1789. In America, however, it is no longer regarded as cant. It is at least common slang, and in some instances seems to have gained almost a colloquial use.

There are interesting special uses for some of these words. Weseen explains concerning nix: "Slang for no, no one, or nothing as 'Are you going?' 'Nix.' 'What are you doing?' 'Nix.' Nixey and nixy are slang variants." In the meaning nothing, nix shows clearly its derivation from German nichts (nix), from which the meanings no and no one are derived in America. In this original sense of nothing, its use is illustrated in the following quotation, in which Dr. Arrowsmith admits the justice of the criticism by two of his colleagues that he has failed to prepare himself completely for the scientific research which he is contemplating:

> Without volition, like a drunken man, he stormed to Wickett's room, protesting, "I suppose you're right. My chemistry is nix, and my math [mathematics] rotten. What am I going to do — what am I going to do?" [95]

A special use of nix or nixie in the United States Postal Service is recorded by SD, NED, AL, and Weseen. AL (p. 206, ftn.) explains as follows, quoting from Postal Laws and Regulations (Sec. 1639):

> In the Postoffice Department nixie is applied to "all mail matter not addressed to a postoffice, or addressed to a postoffice without the name of a state being given, or otherwise so incorrectly, illegibly, indefinitely or insufficiently addressed that it cannot be transmitted". Nixies are returned to the postmaster at he headquarters of the division superintendent, and the regulations require that each must be accompanied by a slip bearing the word nixie. The First Assistant Postmaster-General informs me that the Department has no record showing when the word was introduced.

Weseen gives the following additional information: "A 'nixie clerk' is one in charge of such mail." NED records the fact that nix in this sense was already to be found in the Century Dictionary in the 1885 edition.

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94) T. J. S. (San Francisco, California): Substitutes for "No" in Am. Sp., Vol. II (Aug., 1927).

95) Arrowsmith, p. 263 (Tauchnitz ed.).

G A gives for n i t s k y the three meanings: "no; no one, nothing." It is obviously n i t + the suffix s k y, (from Polish or Russian), which several years ago acquired a vogue in American slang and popular speech, serving as a sort of diminutive. This suffix is still occasionally to be heard, but it has in general grown much less popular. It remains, however, in certain established forms, like this one.

N i t, according to G A, is used both as an adverb, meaning n o, and as noun, meaning i n s i g n i f i c a n t p e r s o n. Even more commonly heard, as a noun, is the compound n i t - w i t, meaning i g n o r a m u s. This word is also mentioned by G A.

A b e r n i t is an expression which I have not heard personally. It is, however, mentioned not only by the California writer for American Speech, quoted at the beginning of this section, but also by A L (p. 206). The latter comments that the expression was "once as popular as camouflage", which latter word is still in everyday use in American Speech. The comment implies that a b e r n i t is, on the contrary, growing less popular. N i t, n i x, n i t s k y, and n i x y remain, however, in quite general use.

nix come erous

1. < G. nichts kommt (dabei) heraus. A L.

2. C o m.: This is a phrase which has been taken over orally into the language. I cannot remember that I have ever seen it in print, except in A L, where it is mentioned (p. 107) as an example of a loan phrase in decay. It is, however, rather an example of an attempt to represent a phrase in the nearest existing symbols of the language it is entering. The American, used to hearing foreign pronunciations of English, might even have supposed this phrase to be an attempt on the part of some German-American to speak English, since n i x has long been known in the sense of n o t h i n g, k o m m t is clearly a cognate of c o m e. and h e r a u s not too widely remote from o u t to be guessed at. Whether he believes that he is imitating a crude German-English or that he is speaking German, the American is at all events familiar with the phrase, whose meaning is to him the same as that of its German original. It is, of course, thought of as a slang phrase. This expression, as well as 'r o u s m i t 'i m (q. v.), I have heard used by Americans who have no knowledge whatever of correct German. It is often

used by my father, who, a native born American of British ancestry, has never attempted to learn the German language.

noodle

1. Pronounced: [nu:dl].

2. Meaning: A strip of dried dough made with wheat flour and eggs, of the character of macaroni, and served in soup or as baked dish. SD.

3. < G. Nudel. NED, SD, Web.
Grimm: „ein erst um mitte des 16 jh. aufkommendes wort".

4. Com.: SD adds to the definition: "Much used by German-Americans". Noodless have now, however, become quite familiar to all Americans and are almost as common in America as in Germany. In fact, the word has become so familiar a household word that it has nearly supplanted the older common English noodle, meaning head, with which word it seems to have no connection. To be sure, this older English word is still to be met with colloquially. It even occurs in recent fiction, as in the following quotation from Sinclair Lewis:

> "Believe me, old Doc Pickerbaugh is the boy that gets the idea into their noodless." [96])

This meaning is, however, thought of as slang in America, whereas in the sense of food, noodle is a well accepted word and part of the general vocabulary.

Strangely, Th. does not include this word. NED and We. give it as English since the 18th century. Although they do not so state, the word in all probability came into English in America. Köhler[97]) gives Pennsylvania as its home.

ouch

1. Pronounced: [aut*ʃ*].

2. Meaning: An exclamation expressing pain or annoyance. NED.

3. < G. autsch. NED.

4. Com.: Th. comments, concerning this word: "It may have come across with the Dunkers and Mennonites." These were two groups with special religious beliefs and practices, who left Germany for America, as groups of Puritans, Baptists,

96) Arrowsmith, p. 186 (Tauchnitz ed.).
97) Wörterbuch der Amerikanism.

Quakers, and others had left England, at least partly in order to secure for themselves the right to worship in their own way. Since they came at an early period, the comment of Th. signifies that the word is one of long standing in America, reaching back into the colonial period. Indeed, it has come to seem so homogeneous that neither S D nor W e b. mentions its derivation. N E D does not state that the word is an Americanism but it is so given by Th. and G A. Moreover, the first quotation cited by N E D, dated 1896:

Ouch, that hurts. Ouch, don't strike me,

is from a "Letter from a Pennsylvania Correspondent", indicating that the word was first introduced into the English language in America. Th. finds the word already in print at an earlier date than that cited by N E D. He quotes from the year 1837:

"Ouch!" ejaculated a voice from the interior, the word being one not to be found in the dictionaries but which, in common parlance, means that a sensation too acute to be agreeable has been excited [98]).

Web. designates the word as now obsolete. That this is not the case is evidenced by its appearance in recent literature. It occurs at least three times in the novel L u m m o x, which has appeared since the World War.

Button up the back with tiddlywinks! To be sure, May didn't button up that way at all, but with much holding in at the waist and reddening of the face, and exclamations like "Ouch, watch out, let me straighten my shields first" [99]).

The sight of these blue and green bruises, burning there so sullenly along the tan little limbs of Chita, could cause Bertha's lips to fold back in a quivering ejaculation of sickness. That was a "snoot". . . .

"Looka, he gimme this — me old man — he pinched — look — make a snoot now — look — ouch — don't touch." [100])

His shaved yellow head. You ran your hand around and around its bristliness and could feel his temples munching.

"Ouch."

"Don't run so hard, Petey." [101])

It is also to be found in S i n c l a i r L e w i s's novel B a b b i t t:

As he flung out his hand in hopeless cheerfulness it touched the radiator, and he squealed:

"Ouch!" [102])

It is even used, jocularly, as the heading of a witty squib which the Literary Digest quotes on the page entitled T h e S p i c e o f L i f e. Here it is used to express the idea that the joke which follows is apt to hurt rather than amuse those to whom it applies:

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98) J. C. N e a l: Charcoal Sketches, p. 220. Quoted by Th.
99) F a n n i e H u r s t: Lummox, p. 95 (Tauchnitz ed.).
100) I b., p. 135.
101) I b., p. 317.
102) B a b b i t t, p. 351 (Tauchnitz ed.).

OUCH! — And it's our opinion that banking in this country will never be safe until somebody invents a burglar alarm that will ring every time the directors are in session [103]).

pinocle

1. Also written p e n u c h l e, p e n u c k l e, p i n o c h l e, b i n o c l e.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: ['pi:nəkl].

3. M e a n i n g: A game at cards.

4. C o m.: This word is said by A L (p. 106) to be a contribution of German immigrants. He gives no explanation of this statement. I have been unable to find any German word which even remotely resembles any of the various forms of the name of this game. The only connection with German that I have been able to find is that the word m e l d (q. v.) is used in playing the game. The use of this term, which all authorities agree is from German, seems in some way to connect the game with the Germans. No source has yet made clear just what that connection is, or whence the name p i n o c l e itself has been derived.

plunder

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [plʌndəʳ].

2. M e a n i n g: Household goods; luggage. G A, S D. N E D, C G, W e b., T h. The word also sometimes has the meaning "personal belongings".

3. < G. Plunder. S D, N E D.

4. C o m.: This word is not to be confused with the common English noun p l u n d e r, meaning "that which has been acquired by pillage", and which, according to N E D, is not derived from the German noun P l u n d e r, but from the English verb t o p l u n d e r, meaning "to pillage". This verb was borrowed into English at the time of the Thirty Years' War. In addition to this older, common English loan word, there is this newer borrowing in America, from the German P l u n d e r, which, according to G r i m m: „bedeutet zunächst kleidung, bettzeug und sonstiges hausgerät, dann überhaupt allerlei gerät und zeug, besonders unwerte sachen, woraus sich dann der begriff des geringschätzigen, verächtlichen entwickelt hat". In its American meanings, which closely parallel the German, the word is slang or colloquial.

103) Quoted from Judge. In the Literary Digest, May 8, 1933.

C G thinks the American noun is of Dutch origin, a derivation which seems unlikely, since the Dutch noun is obsolete. N E D and S D give the word as l o c a l U. S., S D designating southern and western U. S. Th. and G A, however, do not mention it as a localism. C G writes: "Not now very general, but formerly in wide use in the United States." That the word is still in use, however, is attested by the fact that it is listed by G A (published, 1931), and that it occurs in a story in Harper's Magazine for March, 1933, from which the following quotation is taken:

> On the opposite shore a light came suddenly, telling him Marie had put a lamp in the dormer window of the upper front room, the empty room, they called it, or the plunder room [104]).

Such a room would be one not used as a living room, but a room in which to store luggage or old furniture.

I have heard my father use the word p l u n d e r to mean almost any sort of personal belongings. "Where did you get all that plunder?" he will ask; or, speaking perhaps of the gifts to some newly married couple, he will remark: "They have got a lot of plunder."

poker

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [po:kəʳ].

2. M e a n i n g: "A game of cards, for any number of players from two to eight, each for himself." E n c. B r i t.

3. C o m.: The origin of both the game and its name is in much dispute. Concerning the word, both N E D and W e b. say that the origin is uncertain. Barrère and Leland are quoted by A L (p. 112) as claiming that the word came from the Yiddish p o c h g e r, but A L thinks that "more likely it is from the German direct", and refers to the game of P o c h or P o c h - s p i e l, which he quotes a correspondent as saying "resembles p o k e r in a number of ways". The place of origin of the game in America is given by A L as California. The E n c. B r i t., however, gives another theory. We read: "The game is evidently an adaptation of the Persian As nâs, as it was originally played with only 20 cards, dealt to four players, and went to the United States by way of New Orleans. Owing to its resemblance to the French game of "poque" and the German game of "pochen", the French colonists called it p o q u e, and this spelling was mispronounced by the English-speaking players

104) E. P. O'D o n n e l: Potent Delta in Harpers Magazine, March, 1933.

as po-que, easily converted into po-ker"[105]). It is not quite clear to me why the author here mentions the German game, unless because the two, the French game and the German, are thought of as the same game. Grimm, in the definition of Pochspiel, also refers to the French poque. The derivation from poque seems a little fantastic, in view of the fact that the spelling of the word poker indicates rather that the word came into the language orally than through print.

As the place of origin of the game as well as its name is in question, it seems difficult to make more definite assertion of its etymology than that made by NED and Web. One might merely call attention to the fact that there seems to have been a general German influence upon card playing in the United States, to such an extent that German is often referred to as the possible source of names of card games. (See euchre, pinocle).

pretzel

1. Pronounced: [pretsl].

2. Meaning: "A small salted buscuit of twisted shape. The thing as well as the name came from Germany. There are pictures of it in German books about 1550." Th. The definition given by GA is: "Cake formed as figure eight", a definition which arises from the fact that, as in Germany, small sweet cakes or cookies to serve with tea are sometimes made in the same form as the salted pretzels and are called by the same name. The term is, in America, however, usually thought of as belonging to the hard salty cracknel which is served with beer and thought of in association with that beverage.

3. < G. Pretzel, Bretzel. SD, NED.

Grimm gives the forms Pretze and Bretze. S-W gives Pretzel and Bretzel. Although both Pretzel and Bretzel are also given by NED, pretzel is the usual form in America. In fact, it is the only one with which I am personally acquainted.

4. Com.: The dictionaries all concede this word to be an American borrowing from German. NED says that the word had already appeared in Webster Suppl. in 1879, a date which precedes the earliest quotation noted by Th. The earliest quotation by Th. (also quoted by Farmer) is a part of a

105) Robert Frederick Foster, Card Editor to the New York Tribune, in Enc. Brit.

sentence from the St. Louis Globe Democrat for April 29, 1888:

> A quantity of these horrid pretzels in every pocket of his clothes.

When, on my departure for Germany, my nephew requested that I bring him some pretzels when I return, his mother commented that more pretzels are now made in the United States than in Germany. Be that as it may, the word is fully naturalized, as is evidenced by its appearance in current publications. The following quotation is taken from Harper's Magazine for July, 1932:

> The fall and her words were nothing to me, for as she brushed from my clothes the fresh sawdust in which I had lit, my hand was already reaching for the fat pretzel Herr Klein held over the counter [106]).

The excitement over the return of beer in America brought forth an article in the Literary Digest for April 8, 1933, entitled Only Curly Pretzels Wanted, from which the following quotation is taken:

> As was to be feared, a Chicago pretzel fabricator is entertaining the notion of doing something to modernize the designs of this venerable companion of beer, notes the Baltimore Sun. He apparently thinks that, as a sort of celebration of the return of the principal lubricant of pretzels, it would be nice to make them in "flower designs, stars, geometric modernistic things, and what not."
>
> Some one should reach this misguided enthusiast and convince him of the error of his ways before he has corrupted the pretzel industry and ruined himself. . . . If he is obdurate, the Federal Trade Commission should be prepared to act on behalf of the integrity of the pretzel.

prosit!

1. Meaning: This word is thus defined by Web.: "Literally, may it do (you) good; - a salutation used in well wishing, esp. among Germans, as in drinking healths."

2. < G. Prosit < L. prosit.

3. Com.: AL (p. 107) writes concerning this word: "Prosit is in all American dictionaries," to which the comment is added in a footnote: "The English have borrowed it from American, and it is actually in the Oxford Dictionary. It is German student Latin."

As in the case of Gesundheit (q. v.), one can plainly see in the adoption of this word the strong influence which Germans have had upon American drinking habits. In the following quotation from the Literary Digest, speaking of

106) Lucille Kohler: Bock Beer Days in St. Louis.

the Congressional struggle over the question of the repeal of the 18th Amendment, we read:

> In the final scene of the long and bitter Congressional fight, the majority joined with Representative Frank Oliver, New York Democrat, who shouted: "Let's have one on the House, Prosit!" [107])

The reference to "having one on the house" is to the custom of having a drink at the expense of the saloon, called the "house". The word play turns upon the usage, in this instance, of referring to the House of Representatives as the "house".

pumpernickel

1. Pronounced: [ˈpʌmpəˌrnikəl].

2. Meaning: Grimm gives the definition: "schwartz brot in Westphalen". NED, SD, and Web., all of which give the word as a foreign word, define it similarly. Web. enlarges upon the definition in the following manner: "A sort of bread, made of unbolted rye, which forms the chief food of the Westphalian peasants and is now common elsewhere."

3. < G. Pumpernickel. SD, NED, Web.

4. Com.: Although none of the regular dictionaries mentions the adoption of the word in America, it is given by AL (p. 106) in a list of words which "the later immigrants contributed". Many of these later immigrants came from Westphalia [108]). The word is quite well known in America; but, like the thing itself, it has not been so heartily adopted as some other words and the things they stand for; e. g., sauerkraut, noodle, hamburger (q. v.). Pumpernickel is still associated with its German origin and thought of as chiefly used by Germans. It is, however, more nearly naturalized in America than in England, where it is still used only in reference to bread eaten in Germany. In America, it may be eaten by Americans, although they are usually German-Americans. Therefore, although somewhat resticted in use, it does not seem wholly foreign.

rathskeller

1. Also, but less frequently, written ratskeller.

2. Pronounced: [ˈraːtskelər].

107) Literary Digest, March 4, 1933, p. 10.
108) Cf. Faust: I, iii and iv.

AL (p. 327) comments that the first syllable of this word "rhymes . . . with c a t s". This pronunciation seems to be borne out by the following quotation, in which a jester uses this pronunciation for comic effect, also mispronouncing the last member of the compound to give an entirely different and unexpected meaning to the word:

> Descanting on a steak or fish planked, or some new method of serving corn or sweet potatoes or tomatoes, he would lead the way somewhere to a favorite "rat's killer", as he used to say, or grill or Chinese den, and order enough for four or five, unless stopped [109]).

On the other hand, CG remarks: "The word is by origin German, and it has not yet become anglicized in pronunciation". I believe that both pronunciations are in use. It is interesting to note that, although the common spelling of the word is r a t h s k e l l e r, the English t h sound is never used. The first part of the word is always pronounced either [ra : ts] or [rɑets].

3. M e a n i n g: Restaurant and beer-saloon. GA.

4. < G. Rathskeller, Ratskeller.

5. C o m.: W e b. gives a rather full explanation of the meaning of the word as it has developed in America. We read:

> Originally, in Germany, the cellar or basement of the city hall, usually rented for use as a restaurant where beer is sold; hence, a beer saloon of the German type below the street level, where, usually, drinks are served only at tables and simple food may be had; sometimes loosely used, in English, of what are essentially basement restaurants where liquors are served.

The time since the establishment of national prohibition in 1919 has been too short for the word and its meaning to have been lost. I found that pupils in a class in German, coming across the word in a German "Novelle", thought it unnecessary to translate the word and accepted it as the same as the American, with certain uncomplimentary associations, until the significance of the word in Germany had been explained to them. These were all pupils too young to remember much that happened before 1919.

It is, of course, the American word that Sinclair Lewis has in mind in his use of it in the following quotation:

> The Athletic Club Building is nine stories high. . . . The lobby, with its thick pillars of porous Caen stone, its pointed vaulting, and a brown glazed-tile floor like a well-baked bread-crust, is a combination of cathedral-crypt and rathskeller [110]).

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109) D r e i s e r: Peter in Twelve Men, p. 34 (Tauchnitz ed.).
110) B a b b i t t, pp. 54—5 (Tauchnitz ed.).

Rhine wine

1. British English: hock (<Hochheimer) GA, AL.

2. <G. Rheinwein.

3. Com.: The term hock should rather be called common English than british English, for it is also known and used in America, as is evidenced by the following quotation from Arrowsmith:

> It was an expensive dinner with admirable hock, the first decent German wine Gottlieb had drunk in years [111]).

The term Rhine wine is also sometimes used in England, as is shown by the fact that NED cites its inclusion in the Penny Cyclopoedia for 1843 and in Chambers Encyclopoedia for 1866. However, just as the cognate Rheinwein is usually the term used in Germany, so is Rhine wine the term usually used in America. Rhine wine is thus defined by Web.: "Wine produced in the valley of the Rhine and its tributaries. Rhine wines are, generally speaking, light, cry, white, and distinguished by their fine boquet and their acidity." This definition indicates that in America the term includes Moselle wines, etc. SD gives the following definition for hock: "A Rhine wine from Hochheim, near Mainz, Germany," indicating that in the United States, hock is a particular variety of Rhine wine, whereas in England, hock is the word used to mean what the American means when he says Rhine wine. This difference is also indicated in the following quotation from AL (p. 121), a part of a discussion of the different way in which an Englishman expresses himself from that in which an American would speak:

> The wine on the table [of an Englishman], if white and German, is not Rhine wine, but Hock.

'rous mit 'im

1. Meaning: Out with him! (forcibly, if necessary).

2. <G. (he)raus mit ihm. AL.

3. Com.: Like nix come erous (q. v.), this phrase is one to be found only in the spoken language. Both phrases are slang, and both are examples of oral borrowing. In both cases, the resemblance of the component words to English cognates has made the meaning immediately clear to the borrow-

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111) Arrowsmith, p. 124 (Tauchnitz ed.).

ers, without the trouble of translation, and has insured the retention of the meaning unchanged. The word m i t, which might be regarded as more dissimilar than the other words in the phrase to the English equivalents, has long been in America a generally known and understood foreign word. (See m i t.)

It would seem that the word r o u s has aquired the meaning of forcible ejection, probably because of familiarity with the phrase here under discussion. At any rate, it would seem that such is the case from the appearance of a newer phrase, g i v e h i m t h e r o u s, mentioned by Paget, who defines the phrase as equivalent to German i h n r a u s w e r f e n [112]). I have not seen the phrase elsewhere in print. It is, of course, also slang.

sauerkraut

1. Also written s o u r k r a u t, s o u r k r o u t, s o u r c r o u t. It is also sometimes written as two words or as a hyphenated compound. Sometimes the second half of the compound, k r a u t or c r o u t, is used for the whole.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: ['saʊəʳkraut].

3. M e a n i n g: The meaning is the same as in German.

4. < G. Sauerkraut. S D, G A, A L, A E, T h., W e.

5. C o m.: This is one of the earlies of the German loan words in America, having probably come with the first German settlers in Pennsylvania. N E D gives the word, with quotations from the 17th century. The nature of the quotations, however, indicates that the word in England has been and remains as foreign as the food which it is used to designate. In America, both word and thing have become completely naturalized. One can buy s a u e r k r a u t at any grocery store. In recent years, s a u e r k r a u t j u i c e has become a popular beverage. It is frequently served at breakfast before the main part of the meal.

T h. gives the year 1789 as the date of the earliest appearance of the word in print in America. From this year he gives the two following quotations:

> Can she split wood, reap grain, make bread, beersoup, and sour kraut? [113])
>
> I am happy to inform you that by the strength of good beef and pork, and the vivacity of sour crout, I have once more a chance of establishing arbitrary authority [114]).

112) E d. O. P a g e t: Neue Amerikanismen in der Neueren Sprache, Vol XXXV (1927), pp. 334—5.

113) P e t e r i n H e s s e, American Museum, v, 92. Quoted by T h.

114) Speech of the Emperor of Lilliput, Ib., v, 297. Quoted by T h.

How completely naturalized the word and the thing have become is attested by the fact, recorded by A L (p. 207) that:

> During the first year of American participation in the World War an effort was made to substitute l i b e r t y - c a b b a g e for s a u e r - k r a u t, but it quickly failed, for the name had become as completely Americanized as the thing itself, and so l i b e r t y - c a b b a g e seemed affected and absurd.

All of us who were in America at that time quite well remember this attempt and its ignominious failure.

schnapps

1. Also written s c h n a p s. Less often s n a p p s or s n a p s.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: [ʃnɑeps].

3. M e a n i n g: Holland gin. W e b.

4. < G. Schnapps. W e b., S D, N E D, A S D.

5. C o m.: Although A S D attributes the form s c h n a p p s to German, the form s n a p p s, s n a p s is in the same book referred to Du. W e. gives LG. as the source of this second form. Although W e b. defines the word as meaning H o l l a n d g i n, he derives it from G. The German meaning from which the American is derived is given by G r i m m as follows: "handlung des schnappens und geschnapptes. . . . besonders bezeichnung einer gewissen menge brantwein, so viel man auf ein mal s c h n a p p e n kann."

The term is also known in England. N E D gives a quotation from B l a c k w o o d s M a g a z i n e form 1818:

> Enjoy your schnapps, give sorrow to the wind.

T h. does not mention the term, nor does A L. Possibly it is not to be considered as an Americanism. I include it here because of its occurrence in A S D, which would seem to indicate a peculiar intimacy with America, although I can not quite understand why it should be considered as s l a n g.

schnitzel

1. Also s n i t z, s c h n i t s. A L, A S D.; W i e n e r S c h n i t z e l. W e b.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: [ʃnitsl].

3. M e a n i n g: "A veal cutlet variously seasoned and garnished, often with lemon, sardines, and capers". W e b.

4. < G. Schnitzel. W e b., A S D.

5. C o m.: W e b. gives only the form W i e n e r S c h n i t z e l and regards it as a foreign phrase. This form,

as well as Web.'s definition, clearly connects the American word and usage with that of the German, as given by Grimm: "in Oesterreich (das) schnitzel, stück fleisch ohne knochen." The meat, so far as I have been able to observe in Germany, is there as in America always veal.

The use of the forms snitz and schnitz is probably due to the American habit of abreviating. In the meaning given by ASD, however,: "snitz (schnitz): Dried fruit cut in small slices", there is an indication of a direct borrowing of the term in this form, thus defined by Grimm: "schnitz, das schnitzen, kleines abgeschnittenes Stück, . . . hauptsächtlich . . . von äpfeln und birnen." I cannot remember having met with this word personally, either in this form or with this meaning. However, AL (p. 107) remarks: "I have found snitz (= schnitz) in Town Topics", i. e., that section of a newspaper which deals with daily local events. Whether the item referred to used snitz as an abreviation for schnitzel, a veal cutlet, or as the word mentioned by ASD, meaning dried fruit, is not made clear. In the meaning veal cutlet, the word schnitzel is heard often enough to be known to most Americans, although its appearance in print is usually limited to restaurant bills-of-fare.

schoppen

1. Pronounced: [ʃpɒn].

2. Meaning: "An old and varying liquid measure, equal to about a pint (legal, from 1868 to 1884); also, a glass or mug of such capacity." Web.

3. < G. Schoppen.

4. Com.: This word is not found in NED. The meaning in America, as is the case also with seidel and stein (q. v.), closely follows the German, which is given by S-W as "ein Flüssigkeitsmaß für Wein and andere Getränke". It's use in America is illustrated in the following quotation:

> At odd tête-à-tête moments he was always making confessions as to "nights" or "afternoons". "My God, Dreiser, I've found a peach! I can't tell you — but, oh, wonderful! Just what I need. This world's a healthy old place, eh? Let's have another drink, what?" and he would order a stein or a half-schoppen of light German beer and pour it down, grinning like a gargoyle [115].

115) Teodore Dreiser: Peter in Twelve Men, p. 29 (Tauchnitz ed.).

Schweizer-käse.

1. Also, perhaps now more frequently, shortened to Schweizer. Also half translated as Schweizer cheese, or wholly translated as Swiss cheese.

2. Pronounced: [ʃvaitsᵊr-ke:zə].

3. Meaning: "A kind of Swiss cheese; Gruyère cheese." SD. Web., however, says that the term is "applied in the United States both to Gruyère and Emmenthaler".

4. < G. Schweizerkäse.

5. Com.: Varieties of cheese made in America, called American Swiss cheese, are not called Schweizer. In general, the same definition could be given for Schweizer-käse in the United States that Grimm gives for the term in Germany: "groszäugiger käse, wie er in der Schweiz bereitet wird." AL (p. 107) mentions Schweizer in his list of German loan words contributed by the "later immigrants".

seidel

1. Pronounced: [zaidl; saidl].

2. Meaning: "An Austrian liquid measure." Web. Cf. Grimm: "masz für flüssigkeiten."

3. < G. Seidel.

4. Com.: Grimm adds to the definition given above: "in norddeutschen gegenden ist das wort jung und nur in bezug auf bier, vom bairischen bier her . . . als wort des wirthauses üblich geworden". In America, too, the word is connected only with beer, a further evidence that it came into American usage directly from Germany, more particularly from north Germany.

Seidel is a word that was evidently in common use before the days of prohibition. With the apparently sure return of beer to the United States, this word also returns, as is shown by its use in an article concerning the possible return of beer, in which the outhor contends that the propagandists for beer are promising more hopeful returns in revenue than are likely to occur:

> Let us first assume that the new tax on beer will be . . . $ 7.50 a barrel or three cents a pint. This will make the retail cost of a seidel of 12 ounces at least 10 cents [116]).

The contention of the writer is that this high tax will cause so high a price for beer as to limit sales, and thereby limit revenue.

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116) Louis Hacker: If Beer Returns in Current History, Jan., 1933.

semester

1. Pronounced: [sə'mestəʳ].

2. Meaning: "A period or term of six months, esp. in German universities and some U. S. A. colleges, the college half-year." N E D.

3. < G. Semester < L. semestris. N E D, W e b.

4. Com.: Like seminar (q. v.), the word semester, in its use in the United States, is an indication of the influence which German education has had upon American education. The semester plan, or the dividing of the academic year into halfyears, although not universal in the United States, is quite general there. It is followed not only in the colleges and universities, but also in the schools. In recent years, there has been a tendency to divide the year into quarters instead, especially at large universities which have a full course during the summer months. However, the high schools, colleges, and universities are for the most part still organized on the semester plan. That the use of the word in English is confined principally to the United States is indicated by the definition of N E D, given above.

Although the half-year plan and the word semester came from Germany, the organization of the semesters themselves in America is different from that in Germany. Unlike the German semesters, each one of which is a unit to itself, the American semesters are grouped in pairs, two forming the unit, known as the academic year. This academic year begins in September. The first or fall semester, which continues until late in January, is immediately, almost without vacation, followed by the second or spring semester, which continues until about June 10. There is only one vacation of any length, that which comes between two academic years. This long vacation lasts from about June 10 to about September 20. Many of the students, perhaps the majority, make use of this long vacation to earn the money, or part of it, for the coming academic year. The larger universities are, however, open during the summer months, giving special courses for students who care to remain and for school teachers who wish to make use of their vacations for further study. This special summer session is generally known as the summer school.

seminar

1. Pronounced: ['semina:ʳ].

2. Meaning: "In German universities (hence in certain

British and American universities), a select group of advanced students associated for special study and original research under the guidance of a professor." N E D.

3. < G. Seminar.

4. Com.: Although this word comes ultimately from Latin, it came to America through German. It is one of the evidences of the influence which Germany has had upon education in the United States, whose universities, in spite of variations to meet the special conditions and temperament of the American people, nevertheless resemble the German universities much more closely than the English. The word seminar is, to be sure, sometimes used in England, as is shown by the definition given by N E D (see above). The limitation to "certain universities", however, applies rather to England, where the word remains strange, foreign, and occasional, than to America, where it is in quite general use at practically all universities, and has even been extended to designate free study groups outside the university, of mature persons who wish to pursue some line of study under a teacher, but who have not the time to spend a full semester attending lectures at a university. The use in America differs from that in Germany, in that the privilege of enrollment in a seminar at a university is reserved for only the most advanced students, engaged in scholarly independent research. Such Seminar-Übungen as are connected with the learning of languages, for example, at a German university are called classes at an American college or university and are not dignified by the name seminar. This meaning is illustrated in the following quotation from Arrowsmith, in which Sinclair Lewis represents Dr. Arrowsmith as being reminded of university days and learned seminars by the verbose greeting which is extended to him by the Health Officer under whose direction he is to work:

> He received Martin with four "Well's" . . . ; he showed him through the Department, led him into the Director's private office, gave him a cigar, and burst the dam of manly silence:
>
> "Doctor, I'm delighted to have a man with your scientific inclinations. Not that I should consider myself entirely without them. In fact I make it a regular practice to set aside a period for scientific research, without a certain amount of which even the most ardent crusade for health methods would scarcely make much headway."
>
> It sounded like the beginning of a long seminar. Martin settled in his chair. He was doubtful about his cigar, but he found that it helped him to look more interested [117]).

117) Arrowsmith, p. 173 (Tauchnitz ed.).

skat

1. Also written s c a t.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: [ska:t].

3. M e a n i n g: "A three-handed card game played with 32 cards, of which two constitute the skat, or widow." W e b.

4. < G. Skat. W e b., N E D, W e.

5. C o m.: This game seems to have been taken over completely, terms, method of playing, and all. The game is known in England as a game played in Germany. (N E D, E n c. B r i t.). In America, however, it is a fairly well-known game. I have never played it myself, but I have heard it mentioned by friends who are fonder of card games than I. W e b. does not speak of it as a foreign game. Not only the game itself and its name, but also the terms s c h n e i d e r and s c h w a r z used in the game have been taken over. (See below).

schneider

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [ʃnaidəʳ].

2. < G. Schneider. S D, W e b.

3. M e a n i n g: "The hand that does not make 30 is 'Schneider', that is 'cut', and 'Schwarz' (black) if he does not make a single point." E n c. B r i t. in the article on s k a t.

4. C o m.: The word s c h n e i d e r is not used in America, except in this sense. Otherwise, it is known only as a surname. The definition given by E n c. B r i t. is practically the same as that given by S - W for the game as played in Germany.

schwarz

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [ʃvaʳts].

2. < G. schwarz. S D, W e b.

3. C o m.: A term used in the game of s k a t. For definition, see the quotation from E n c. B r i t. given under s c h n e i d e r (above). I do not find the term in this connection mentioned by S - W.

smear-case

1. Also written s m e a r c a s e.

2. P r o n o u n c e d: ['smi:ərke:s].

The form of the word indicates that the first half, as it appears in print, is either a translation (cf. Eng. s m e a r)

or an instance of sound substitution. The second half is clearly a mere imitation of the original sound impression.

3. Meaning: "A preparation of milk made to be spread on bread, whence its name; otherwise known as cottage cheese." Bartlett[118]). Cf. Grimm's definition of Schmierkäse: „käse, der sich schmieren läßt".

4. < G. Schmierkäse. NED, SD, Web.

5. Com.: Köhler[119]) and AL (p. 56) derive this word from Dutch smeerkaas. NED, although giving the derivation as from German, mentions the Dutch in parentheses. It is possible that it is a double borrowing. It is worthy of note, however, that in New York, where the principal Dutch settlement was located, the local designation for this cheese is pot-cheese. (Köhler[120])). Neither Th. nor GA mentions the word smear-case, although it is clearly an Americanism and is so indicated by NED, SD, and Web. Another name for smear-case is Dutch cheese This name may have suggested that the origin was Dutch; but since the word Dutch in America is quite commonly used to mean German (see Dutch), this name for the cheese might have referred also rather to a German source than to a Dutch one. At any rate, most of the authorities agree that the word smear-case is from the German.

SD claims that the word is a localism, but NED and Web. do not so classify it, nor is that my impression. NED gives a quotation containing the word from the Atlantic Monthly, one of the most literary magazines in America, for February, 1893:

> The man held a knife-load of smear-case in front of his mouth.

speck

1. Pronounced: [spek].

2. Meaning: Fat meat, esp. pork (bacon).

This is a common Germanic word, meaning, according to Grimm, "lardum". It has been replaced in English by bacon, lard.

3. < G. Speck. Probably also < Du. spek.

4. Com.: There seems to have been an earlier borrowing of this word in English from the Dutch spek, but the word

118) Dictionary of Americanisms, p. 314. Quoted by NED.
119) Wörterbuch der Amerikanismen.
120) Ib.

has become obsolete. It was "formerly common in the whaling industry for the blubber of whales." (C G). N E D, doubtless considering the present word a survival of the older one, writes: "Now U. S. and S. A f r i c a n." S D's comment, however, that it is "used chiefly in places colonized by Germans or Dutch, as in Pennsylvania and South Africa", indicates that, whether as a new borrowing or as a survival, the word owes its present existence to the influence of the Germans of Pennsylvania and the Dutch of South Africa. In the United States, it may also owe something to the influence of the Dutch in New York, although this latter influence seems confined to the use of the name of a special dish, known as s p e c k a n d a p p l e j e e s < Du. s p e k e n a p p e l t j e s, which S D defines as: "an old-fashioned Dutch dish consisting of pork-fat and apples." Otherwise the use of the word in America seems to be wholly due to German influence, as is indicated by the definition of the word given in the T r a n s a c t i o n s o f t h e A m e r i c a n P h i l o l o g i c a l A s s o c i a t i o n:

> 'Speck' is . . . the generic term applied (in Pennsylvania) to all kinds of fat meat [121]).

T h. likewise gives Pennsylvania as the home of the word, and his first quotation is from a Pennsylvania Journal:

> He goes out almost every week to eat speck with the country folks; thereby showing that a democratic governor is not to be choked with pork fat [122]).

The term remains principally a localism, used chiefly in Pennsylvania and, in the one idiom given above, in New York.

spiel

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [spi:l].

2. M e a n i n g: (As noun): talk, speech; (as verb): to make a speech, give a lecture. G A, W e b.

3. < G. Spiel, spielen.

W e b. infers this derivation, without actually claiming it. Of the derived noun s p i e l e r, o n e w h o t a l k s, o n e w h o m a k e s a s p e e c h, A L (p. 111) writes: "S p i e l e r, of course, is from the German s p i e l."

4. C o m.: G r i m m gives evidence of a similar older meaning in German. He quotes F r i s c h: „spiel hiesz vor alters erzehlung, mähre, rede. . . . von dieser bedeutung scheint

121) 1886, Vol. XVII, App., p. xii. Quoted by N E D.
122) Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Journal, Sept. 12, 1809. Quoted by T h.

spiel annoch im wort kirchspiel zu seyn, der ort und die gemeine, wo man vom evangelio redet, und deszwegen zusammen kommt". Grimm believes that in this meaning the word seems to go back to a different source. It is, he thinks, from the Gothik spil, whose modern representative in English is spell, and which lives still in modern German in the word Beispiel. In dialect, it still exists in the form „zu spill oder spiel gehen, zu besuch". Moreover, there are „viele redeweisen dieser art in nd. mundarten: . . . in Hamburg-Altona ‚ik speel nee: ich behaupte dagegen, verneine, und ik speel so: das ist meine meinung".

In America, the word has only the meaning of a talk or a speech. Web., to be sure, gives the meaning: "Play; game; — applied to almost any action or thing, esp. a talk, speech, story, etc." This definition seems to indicate that the word spiel was originally taken over in all its meanings. So far as I have observed, however, the meaning "play; game" etc. is entirely obsolete. I have never heard the word so used in America. GA does not mention such a meaning; and for the verb Web. gives only the meaning: "to talk; speak; make speeches, etc."

Although the word spiel (noun) may mean any kind of talk, it is usually one of a certain degree of bombast. This sense has doubtless crept in from the association of the word with the speech of the crier of a side-show at a fair, carnival, or circus, or the guide on a sight-seeing tour. This individual is technically called the spieler, and his speech is his spiel. In this technical sense, the word is especially reminiscent of the so-called "medicine show" of the last century, a show given by quack doctors with remedies to sell. It is used in this connection in the following quotation from Arrowsmith, in which this occupation is mentioned as one of the former employments of the versatile Dr. Benoni Carr:

> Dr. Benoni Carr was born Benno Karkowski. He had graduated from a medical school which gave degrees in two years. He had read vastly, but he had never been in Europe. He had been „spieler" in medicine shows, chiropodist, spiritualist medium, esoteric teacher, head of sanitariums for the diversion of neurotic women. Cliff had encountered him in Zenith, when they were both drunk [123]).

The sense of the speech of the crier of wares is also preserved in the use of the word in the following quotation from Babbitt, although the occasion this time is one of everyday, not of the carnival:

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123) Arrowsmith, p. 27 (Tauchnitz ed.).

He explained to Paul Rieseling:

"Course I don't mean to say that every ad I write is literally true or that I always believe everything I say when I give some buyer a strong selling-spiel." [124])

The idea of exaggeration, bombast, self-advertisement is apt to cling to the word s p i e l in all its uses, both as noun and as verb. This idea is evident in Babbitt's denunciation of the high-sounding title of a lecture which his wife is telling him about:

"Mrs. Opal Mudge. The field-lecturer for the American New Thought League. She's going to speak on 'Cultivating the Sun Spirit' before the League of Higher Illumination."

" . . . It sounds like 'Why is a mouse when it spins?' That's a fine spiel for a good Presbyterian to be going to, when you can hear Doc. Drew." [125])

There is the same suggestion in Ted Babbitt's superior, almost contemptuous attitude toward the Latin teacher at his high school:

"Old Shimmy Peters, that teaches Latin in the High . . . sits up all night reading a lot of greasy books and he's always spieling about the 'value of languages'." [126])

The idea of exaggeration, is, however, not necessarily present. In the following quotation, in which Dr. Arrowsmith and his wife discuss a speech that he has just made, the word means little else than just a t a l k, a l e c t u r e:

As they walked home Leora was eloquently silent.

"Well, did you like my spiel?" he said, after a suitable time of indignant waiting.

"Yes, it wasn't bad. It must have been awfully hard to talk to all those stupid people." [127])

standpoint

All authorities agree that this word is a translation of the German S t a n d p u n k t, with which it is identical in meaning. There is a question, however, as to whether it was first borrowed in America or in England. It is now in good use in both countries. Concerning this question, A L (p. 108) quotes R. G. White as saying that "the substitution of s t a n d p o i n t for p o i n t o f v i e w . . . was first made by an American professor who sought 'an Anglicized form' of the German standpunkt". E L A (I, 157), however, doubts this explanation of the origin of the word, saying: "The word s t a n d p o i n t was formed after German S t a n d p u n k t, but apparently first in

124) Babbitt, p. 47 (Tauchnitz ed.).
125) Ib., p. 322.
126) Ib., p. 75.
127) A r r o w s m i t h, p. 192 (Tauchnitz ed.).

England, the New English Dictionary giving examples beginning with 1829". AL assumes that the word in England is a borrowing from America, but he fails to mention at what date the American professor translated the word. Perhaps the Historical Dictionary of American English, now in process of preparation, will be able to answer the question satisfactorily.

Whether borrowed originally in America or in England, the word is now in good use in both countries, in spite of the war against it by the purists. Fowler recommends it instead of point of view in those cases in which it must be followed by another of as "from the point of view of philosophy", an awkward construction. He feels that standpoint is in this case preferable to the more recent viewpoint, since the latter reminds one unpleasantly of the fact that point of view is the native idiom [128]).

The form viewpoint seems to have no connection with the German Gesichtspunkt. It is generally supposed to have been formed by analogy from standpoint. Fowler thinks it arose as a reaction against standpoint, but feels, as already stated, that standpoint is really preferable.

stein

1. Pronounced: [stain].

2. Meaning: "An earthenware mug, especially for beer, commonly holding about a pint; also the quantity of beer which a stein holds." Web.

3. < G. Stein(krug).

4. Com.: This is another instance of the shortening of a compound, so that the first member comes to stand for the whole. Grimm indicates that this shortening had already taken place in German, in reference to an earthenware mug.

The word, although known in England, remains a foreign word there, according to NED. That it first came into the English language in America is indicated by the fact that the definition given by NED is quoted verbatim from Web. (see above). The first quotation given by NED is also from America:

> They clattered their steins on the table and sang wonderful Jena songs [129]).

The novel from which the above quotation was taken was

128) H. W. Fowler: A Dictionary of Modern English Usage; Oxford, 1927.
129) Winston Churchill: The Crisis, II, x, 206. Quoted by NED.

printed in 1901. I believe that the word was in use in America long before that time, however, and in good colloquial use, in spite of the fact that the quotation seems to indicate that the word still had a certain foreign flavor at the time the book was written. Certainly by the time that I entered the University of Oregon in 1909, the word was sufficiently naturalized to have found a place in one of the most popular of the college songs, the refrain of which is as follows:

> Then hail, boys, hail for old Oregon,
> Then hail for the lemon-yellow [130]).
> We'll fall in line and drink a stein,
> For we like a jolly good fellow.
> Then lift your voices, praises sing,
> Let all with one endeavor
> Give three long rousing Rah! Rah! Rah's!
> For Oregon, our alma mater.

Today, the word is thought of as wholly native. It occurs in the magazine story Bock Beer Days in St. Louis, which appeared in Harper's Magazine for July, 1932. In the following quotation from that story, the author represents the enterprise of the saloon kneeper in handing out free beer, with flourishes that frighten his pet rooster [cock], named Hindenburg:

> The first twelve steins he gave away with flourishes that frightended Hindenburg out of the drip pan. Then he put out a steaming lunch that was the end of two days' cooking for Frau Klein [131]).

turnhall

(See Turnverein)

Turnverein

1. Pronounced: ['tə:rnvərain].
2. Meaning: Gymnastic association. GA.
3. < G. Turnverein.
4. Com.: The word verein is also given independently by Web. and CG. Web. thus defines verein: "A union or society; used in names of German organizations; as Turnverein." It is in this one compound that the word has become familiar to all Americans. Almost every city of any size has its Turnverein. Originally merely a gymnastic organization, it has come to be a center of social activity for the German part of the community. Even the children and children's

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130) The college colors are green and lemon-yellow.

131) Lucille Kohler: Bock Beer Days in St. Louis in Harper's Magazine, July, 1932.

children of Germans, some of whom do not speak or understand German, are members of the Turnverein, go to its gymnasium (also called the turnhalle or turnhall) for weekly physical exercise, and attend plays and musical events there. The Turnverein has thus come to be one of the powerful and influential organizations in each city. Its place and importance are indicated in the following quotation, in which it is listed among th characteristically American organizations in which Dr. Pickerbaugh is interested:

> While he considered the headlines in the scrapbook, Martin realized that Dr. Pickerbaugh was vastly better known than he had realized. He was exposed as the founder of the first Rotary Club in Iowa; superintendent of the Jonathan Edwards Congregational Sunday School of Nautilus; president of the Moccasin Ski and Hiking Club, of the West Side Bowling Club, and the 1912 Bull Moose and Roosevelt Club; organizer and cheer-leader of a Joint Picnic of the Woodmen, Moose, Elks, Masons, Oddfellows, Turnverein, Knights of Columbus, B'nai Brith, and the Y. M. C. A. [132]).

The Turnverein is usually well established and well connected financially as well as socially, as is evident from the following quotation:

> About once a month the von Schlegels came to dine. He was president of the Turnverein National Bank and also had enormous coffee plantation holdings [133]).

verein

(See Turnverein)

vest

1. Pronounced: [vest].

2. Meaning: A waistcoat, or a sleeveless body garment worn under the coat. Web.

3. Com.: This word was apparently borrowed into English from the French veste, from which source came also the German word Weste. Under the meaning: "a short garment worn beneath the coat or jacket as a usual part of male attire; a waistcoat", NED cites an instance from Pepys' Diary, 1666. The word in this sense has, however, become nearly obsolete in England; but it still lives in America. It seems very probable that this survival in America is largely due to German influence. Web. says that the word is colloquial. However, it is to be found quite generally in modern fiction, as in the following description given by Sinclair Lewis of Dr. Howard Littlefield:

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132) Arrowsmith, p. 176 (Tauchnitz ed.).

133) Lummox, p. 217 (Tauchnitz ed.).

He was tall, broad, thick; his gold-rimmed spectacles were engulfed in the folds of his long face; his hair was a tossed mass of greasy blackness; he puffed and rumbled as he talked; his Phi Beta Kappa key shone against a spotty black vest; he smelled of old pipes; he was altogether funereal and archidiaconal; and to real-estate brokerage and the jobbing of bathroom-fixtures he added an aroma of sanctity [134]).

At the present time, v e s t in the sense of waistcoat is used in Brit. Eng. only in the shops, as a technical expression. Otherwise, the word v e s t in Brit. English means u n d e r - s h i r t. In America, on the other hand, v e s t is the usual term for w a i s t c o a t. Colloquially, it is the only word for this meaning. Even in the literary language it is quite generally used, although there one may also meet the word w a i s t - c o a t. This latter word is never heard in conversation.

wagon

1. S p e l l i n g: In Brit. Eng., this word is usually spelled w a g g o n. In America, the usual spelling is w a g o n, the British spelling being principally used by printing houses that expect to sell their books in England, usually branch firms of English printing houses.

2. M e a n i n g: The meaning in America is also somewhat different, somewhat enlarged and more inclusive than the one in England. In England, the present meaning is a v e r y h e a v y v e h i c l e f o r h a u l i n g h e a v y l o a d s. In America, the meaning is extended to include, according to N E D: "a light four-wheeled vehicle used for various business purposes; also, loosely, a similar vehicle used for pleasure." This meaning must, of course, be understood as an extension of, not a substitute for, the British meaning, which is also current in the United States. To quote A L (p. 108), the word w a g o n "indicates almost any four-wheeled, horse-drawn vehicle in this country but only the heaviest in England."

3. C o m.: The American meaning reminds one of the earlier but now obsolete English meaning, given as follows by N E D: "A carriage of any kind for the conveyance of persons, their luggage, etc." N E D does not suggest, however, that the American meaning is a retention of or derivation from this earlier meaning. No explanation of the new development in America is given by N E D. A L (p. 108), however, cites Bristed [135]) as saying that the American meaning "was probably

134) B a b b i t t, p. 29 (Tauchnitz ed.).
135) The English Language in America (Cambridge Essays, London, 1885).

influenced by the German w a g e n". If this suggestion is correct, it may account for the loss of one g in the spelling of the word, in order to follow the German model, disregarding the fact that the pronunciation (wəegn) calls fort two g's following the short vowel. Although other factors may have entered in to the development of the American meaning, very likely the German influence was one of the causes. One reason for deciding that it is not an archaism, retained from the obsolete meaning given above, is that in the older meaning the emphasis was upon a vehicle for passenger service, whereas the American meaning stresses rather the light-weight business w a g o n, such as those used for the delivery of purchases too bundlesome or too numerous to be carried easily by the purchaser, but not heavy enough, like furniture, to need heavy w a g o n s for their transport; such, for example, as the one which must have been used by the village "store-keeper" in his rounds as described in the following quotation:

> Every Fourth of July during these years it was his custom to collect the children of the town in front of his store and treat them to ice-cream. Every Christmas Eve he travelled about the streets in a waggon, which carried half a dozen barrels of candy and nuts which he would ladle out to the merry shouting throng of pursuing youngsters, until all were satisfied [136]).

The well-known c o v e r e d - w a g o n of the days of the great migration across the continent comes nearer, of course, to the British meaning of the word. It was of necessity a heavy w a g o n, over which a r o o f of canvas was tretched in the form of an arch. It must carry not only the travelers, but all their wordly goods as well, including the furniture with which they intended to begin housekeeping in the new country to which they were traveling. Such, doubtless, was the nature of the w a g o n mentioned in the opening sentence of Sinclair Lewis's novel A r r o w s m i t h, since the reference is manifestly to pioneer days:

> The driver of the waggon swaying through forest and swamp of the Ohio wilderness was a ragged girl of fourteen [137]).

In recent times, there has been a new development of the w a g o n in the form of the popular l u n c h - w a g o n, where one may obtain a quick lunch. Such wagons are also c o v e r e d w a g o n s, but not in the earlier sense. They are usually light

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136) T h e o d o r e D r e i s e r: The Village Feudists in Twelve Men, p. 245 (Tauchnitz ed.). Tauchnitz uses the spelling w a g g o n. In cases where there are differences between American and British spelling, Tauchnitz seems to prefer the British. It is, however, safe to assume that the author, being an American, wrote w a g o n.

137) A r r o w s m i t h, p. 1 (Tauchnitz) ed.). For spelling of w a g o n, see note.

weight wagons. They are completely enclosed, forming a room, used as kitchen for the preparation of food, consisting mainly of a sandwich, possibly the popular American oven-baked beans, certainly coffee, without which the average American does not think that he has dined, no matter what the meal or what the time of day or night. Usually these simple articles of food are passed out to the customer through a window on the side of the wagon-kitchen. He eats standing on the street outside. In a few cases, however, a limited number of seats are placed inside, so that a few customers may come in to eat [138]). It is such a lunch-wagon which is referred to in the following quotation, describing the manner in which Martin Arrowsmith and his friend Clif Clawson lived as students:

> They made their own breakfasts; they dined on hash at the Pilgrim Lunch Waggon or the Dew Drop Inn [139]).

It is a similar lunch-wagon, or bean-wagon, so called from the popular beans on sale there, which is mentioned in the following quotation, taken from an article describing the adventures of a young writer who had disguised himself as one of the unemployed in New York, in order to learn about their condition from his own experiences:

> David never went hungry. Almost invariably he found people willing to share. For instance, at "No. 1, New York", a small bean-wagon, he put down a nickel for a cup of coffee and stayed there all night talking to the fellow in charge, peeling spuds [potatoes] and helping mop the wagon [140]).

want in, off, out, etc.

1. Meaning: To desire to go in, away, out. GA.

2. Com.: It is generally supposed that this expression is a translation of the German Ich will hinein, etc. Doubt as to this derivation is expressed by ELA (II, 256), who comments that "constructions like this are found in English as far back as Anglo-Saxon. In American usage the idiom must therefore be regarded as a popular survival". NED also mentions this idiom: "to want out (in, etc.): to wish to go out (in, etc.). Chiefly Sc., north Ir., and U. S. colloq.", and gives a quotation from an American newspaper for the year 1887:

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138) See quotation from Arrowsmith under hamburger.

139) Arrowsmith, p. 40 (Tauchnitz ed.).

140) An Amateur on the Bum in the Literary Digest, April 15, 1933. In this article, the spelling wagon is used. This magazine always prefers American spellings. Indeed, it goes further than most, agitating for more thorough spelling reforms.

The turnkey says if the prisoner had informed him he wanted out, he would have been released [141]).

E L A quotes from The New Purchase the following comment on this idiom: "I want in, I want out, etc., are pioneer forms of speech that are still not uncommon in certain regions of the Middle West" [142]), to which E L A adds: "after a lapse of nearly three generations this statement is still as true as it was in the early nineteenth century. One may hear 'I want off here' almost any day of the year on almost any street car in almost any town of the Middle West."

The location of this idiom in the Middle West seems to indicate that, although it may have in it elements of survival, it must have been at least strengthened by German influence. So many characteristically Middle Western expressions are of German origin, and so many German borrowings are found in the Middle West. (See b e e r g a r d e n, b a k e - o v e n, e. g.). Survivals of English dialect which are localisms in America are usually to be found rather in New England and in the backwoods of Kentucky. In such constructions as "Conductor, I w a n t o u t at Chestnut Street," and "The cat w a n t s i n", the phrase is commonly found in south-western Pennsylvania, in a region where there is a fairly marked local dialect. Here it may be due either to Scotch or to German influence, probably to both, since the settlers of the region came largely from these two nationalities [143]).

In the literary language, the idiom is to be found in the following quotation from Fannie Hurst's L u m m o x, the scene of which is laid in New York, where, to be sure, all idioms, native and foreign, may be found:

She wanted to run. Feet were not mute — they tasted the sap of earth and bounded back vibrant with it as if they had drunk wine. The hillside. It cut her. It skinned her shoes and on the inside her toes curled, pushed against her stockings, and wanted out [144]).

And again:

She wanted to tell him warmly about the lovely greenlace grove of his and of the Slav song that rang along her throat wanting out, just as her feet running over the warm earth in their bluchers wanted out [145]).

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141) C o l u m b u s (Ohio) D i s p a t c h, Sept 3, 1887. Quoted by N E D.

142) C a r l t o n: The New Purchase (1843), p. 78. Quoted by E L A, II, 256—7.

143) C f. E. K. M a x f i e l d: The Speech of South-Western Pennsylvania in Am. Sp., Vol VII (Oct., 1931).

144) L u m m o x, p. 70 (Tauchnitz ed.).

145) I b., p. 72.

wurst

1. Pronounced: [wə:rst].
2. Meaning: Sausage, especially the large varieties.
3. < G. Wurst.
4. Com.: Although this word is sometimes used as an independent word, as defined above, it is more frequently met with in compounds (see below). As an independent word, it is not found in any of the dictionaries; but it is known to all Americans. The pronunciation has become completely Americanized, so that the word is pronounced like the English word worst.

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blutwurst

1. Pronounced: ['blu:twə:rst].
2. Meaning: The same as in German.
3. < G. Blutwurst.
4. Com.: This word, although mentioned by AL (p. 106) as among the German loan words in American English, is not so generally known as leberwurst and wienerwurst. It is perhaps well known in sections where there are large numbers of Germans. I can not remember having come in contact with it, except very occasionally.

. . . . . .

leberwurst

1. Pronounced: ['le:bɐrwəʳst].
2. Also called liverwurst and liver sausage.
4. Com.: Although the fully translated form liver sausage is sometimes used, the loan word leberwurst and the half translated form liverwurst are more common. For some reason, these forms have not yet found a place in the dictionaries; but they are familiar to all Americans. Liverwurst is given by AL (p. 106).

. . . . . .

mettwurst

1. Pronounced: ['metwə:rst].
2. Meaning: Summer sausage.
3. < G. Mettwurst.
4. Com.: I have not seen this word given in any of the dictionaries or glosaries, and it is not mentioned by AL. I have,

however, met it personally. It was the usual word used for the sausage otherwise known as summer sausage at the neighborhood grocery across the street from the place where I was living in Portland, Oregon, just before I left, in February, 1932, to come to Germany. I asked the name of this sausage, and was told that it was mettwurst. I protested that this was a German word, and asked if the English name were not summer sausage. "Well, yes, sometimes it's called that; but the usual name is mettwurst", was the answer I received.

. . . . . .

wienerwurst

1. Pronounced: ['wi:nərwə:rst].

2. Also shortened to wiener [wi:nor] and wienie [wi:ni]. I have even encountered wieniewurst [wi:niwə:rst].

3. < G. Wienerwurst.

4. Com.: This word is mentioned as a German loan word by AL, GA, and ELA, but it has not yet found a place in Web., SD, or the Century Dictionary.

The term is used to designate the small red sausage, also called frankfurter (q. v.), or, more recently, hot dog, which is so popular with the Americans. The popularity of these sausages is shown by the following quotation from Arrowsmith, in which they are mentioned as one of the items of food at the huge lunch, somewhat in the nature of an indoor picnic, given in honor of Mr. Pickerbaugh, who, having been elected to Congress, is leaving the town of Nautilus for Washington:

> The day of Pickerbaugh's leaving for Washington was made a fiesta. At the Armoury, from twelve to two, the Chamber of Commerce gave to everybody who came a lunch of hot wienies, doughnuts, and coffee [146]).

Wienie sandwiches, which are made by putting a wienie between the two halves of a roll, with or without mustard, are sold to spectators at ball games and similar functions. They may also be had at all quick-lunch restaurants, especially those along the highways, where automobile tourists stop to refresh themselves. In the novel Lummox, we find them on the bill-of-fare of Meyerbogen, the keeper of the bakery and lunch room. The bill-of-fare of this humble restaurant keeper was not printed, but he announced it personally in a clearly marked German accent:

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146) Arrowsmith, p. 226 (Tauchnitz ed.).

"Veenie sandwiches, five zents. Baked beans, five zents. Gorned beef vid boached egg, fiveteen" [147]).

Wienerwurst is the best known of the compounds with wurst. It has become a word as common and well known as noodle and sauerkraut.

yammer

1. Pronounced: [jəemᵊr]
2. Meaning: To complain, to whine. GA.
   The word is also used as a noun.

3. Com.: NED says that this word was borrowed into Middle English from Dutch or German Jammer. Web. traces the word still further back in English, giving OE. géomrian, géomerian as its source, an impossible derivation from the sounds. Both dictionaries say that the word is now obsolete. It is not given at all by Skeat. In spite of the dictionaries, however, it is far from obsolete in America. It may be an English archaism, or it may be a new borrowing from the German, reinstating a word which had become obsolete. In either case, there seems to be little doubt that the German Jammer, jammern had some influence, either in keeping alive and revitalizing an obsolescent form, or in resurrecting an already obsolete one. (See katzenjammer.)

The colloquial use of the word is illustrated in the following quotation from Lummox, in which May Wallenstein complains to her husband of her mother-in-law:

"That old woman is driving me crazy. I can't get no friends to come to the house no more the way she sits out in the next room yammering to herself [148]).

The word is not merely colloquial, however. It is used very effectively by Sinclair Lewis, not in the conversation, but in the narrative comment, in the following quotation:

The persistent yammer of a motor horn drew Martin to the window of the laboratory, a late afternoon in February [149]).

Nor is it used only in popular writing. H. M. Ayres, writing on The English Language in America, uses the term in giving his reasons for decrying he academicians who are overzealous in following the niceties of British English:

147) Lummox, p. 305 (Tauchnitz ed.).
148) Lummox, p. 96 (Tauchnitz ed.).
149) Arrowsmith, p. 84 (Tauchnitz ed.).

With Italian-American, Yiddish-American, Scandinavian-American, German-American yammering in our ears, it is not a time for academicians to regret that we write t o w a r d and not t o w a r d s, or for teachers of "oral" English to endeavor to make broad our a's [150]).

yea(h)

1. P r o n o u n c e d: [jea:].
2. Also y e h [je], y a h [ja:], y u h [jʌ]
3. M e a n i n g: "Particle, meaning y e s." G A.
4. ? < G. ja.

5. C o m.: It has been suggested that this Americanism is a survival of the archaic y e a [je:i]. This archaic y e a has, however, remained in use for formal purposes, such as voting or making solemn assertions. It has even developed a certain "churchy" connotation. The distinctly American particle mentioned here has, on the contrary a decidedly popular, secular connotation. For its appearance, it seems more plausible to accept the usual explanation that it is from the German j a. This explanation is accepted as incontrovertible by A L (p. 207), speaking of "that German influence which has fastened upon the American y e s something of the quality of j a".

In all its various forms, this particle is in daily use, as frequently heard, probably, as the standard y e s. This prevalence is amply recorded in all recent American fiction. One can pick almost any recent novel at random and find it in the recorded conversation of the characters. As an example, there is the conversation, in Dreiser's A n A m e r i c a n T r a g e d y, between two chance observers of the family: father, mother, and four children, engaged in a street religious service:

> "They're just working some religious dodge or other, I guess."
> "That oldest boy don't wanta be here. He feels outa place, I can see that. It ain't right to make a kid like that come out unless he wants to. He can't understand all this stuff, anyhow."
> "Yeh, I guess that's so," the other asserted, taking in the peculiar cast of the boy's head and face [151]).

Or again, in Fannie Hurst's novel L u m m o x, take a conversation between the harassed Mr. Wallenstein and his dissatisfied wife, who cannot live peaceably with her mother-in-law:

> "May! My dear —"

150) In Cambridge History of American Literature, Vol. IV (1921), Chap. XXX, p. 268.

151) D r e i s e r: An American Tragedy, p. 13 (London).

"Yah, 'dear' — you'd better 'dear' me — leaving me shut up here day after day with a lunatic" [152]).

Or there is the more agreeable conversation of Mr. Babbitt with his neighbor concerning the weather on a bright spring day:

"It's one mighty fine spring day, but night's still cold."
"Yeh, you're right they are!" [153]).

Or there is the conversation between Martin Arrowsmith and a fellow-physician concerning the medical staff at the public clinic:

At a restaurant, Irving Watters came over to Martin's table.
"I hear you've increased the clinic staff", said Dr. Watters.
"Yuh."
"Thinking of increasing it still more?"
"Might be a good idea."
"Now you see here, Mart. . . . There are limits, you know!" [154])

The examples could be multiplied indefinitely. It is fairly safe to say that this is the common form of y e s in casual conversation in America. The use of y e s usually denotes more deliberation, or more leisure at least.

zwieback

1. P r o n o u n c e d: ['tswi:bak, 'tswaibak].
2. M e a n i n g: "Biscuit rusk, or a sweet spiced bread toasted." S D.
3. < G. Zwieback. S D, W e b., W e.
4. C o m.: W e b. and C G give this word as a foreign word, but it has become so thoroughly adopted that I think it can now better be regarded as a loan word. I can remember that I was already quite familiar with it as a very small child. Z w i e b a c k can be bought at practically all grocery stores.

152) L u m m o x, p. 119 (Tauchnitz ed.).
153) B a b b i t t, p. 56 (Tauchnitz ed.).
154) A r r o w s m i t h, p. 227 (Tauchnitz ed.).

MISCELLANEOUS SLANG EXPRESSIONS

For some reason, German seems to be one of the fertile sources of American slang. One phrase after another is adopted, translated, adapted, or supposedly modeled after the German, and often as quickly discarded. Several examples appear in this investigation. In addition to those given individual treatment, the following should be mentioned:

G a n z g u t and w i e g e h t's? are mentioned by A L (p. 107) as expressions that "are familiar to practically all Americans". The pronunciation and the meaning remain unchanged from those of the German originals. To these, I think, should be added e s m a c h t n i c h t s a u s and n i c h t w a h r? In fact, n i c h t w a h r? is mentioned by C G. I have not seen e s m a c h t n i c h t s a u s in any book on Americanisms, but I have heard it quite as often as the others here mentioned.

A c h, d u l i e b e r! is an exclamation frequently heard. Perhaps it is even more often heard in the longer a c h, d u l i e b e r A u g u s t i n! Almost all Americans are familiar with this opening phrase as well as with the music of this once popular ditty, which was formerly played by the so-called G e r m a n b a n d s, small troops of street musicians. For some reason, this phrase seems to have been overlooked by writers on Americanisms. At least, it has appeared in none of the books or articles on the subject which I have examined.

A L (p. 107) mentions two further slang expressions, which were "obviously suggested by German"; namely, a c h L o u i e! and o n t h e F r i t z. A c h L o u i e! is rather meaningless. It is used much as is a c h, d u l i e b e r (see above). O n t h e F r i t z has practically the same meaning as o n t h e b u m (see b u m), that is, o u t o f o r d e r, n o t i n g o o d c o n d i t i o n. It is well illustrated in the following quotation from B a b b i t t, in which Mr. Babbitt expresses both his fidelity to his friend and his confidence in him:

> ". . . Paul, when it comes right down to it, I don't care whether you bust loose or not. I do like having a rep [reputation] for being one of the Bunch but if you ever needed me I'd chuck it and come out for you every time! Not

of course but what you're — course I don't mean you'd ever do anything that would put — that would put a decent position on the fritz but — See how I mean?" [155])

Of course neither of these expressions (a c h L o u i e!; o n t h e F r i t z) is either derived from or translated from the German. Nevertheless, they are, as A L says, "obviously suggested by German", in that they contain German elements (a c h, F r i t z). I fail to discover German influence in either case in the phrase as a whole. In the writing of f r i t z without a capital letter, as in the quotation given above, all connection with its source in a German name seems to have been lost in the mind of the user.

MUSIC NOMENCLATURE

One of the differences between British-English and American-English is in the naming of the quantity of the notes in music, the various durations. The Americans follow in this matter the same system as do the Germans, speaking of w h o l e, q u a r t e r, e i g h t h notes, etc. Of this system and its probable origin, A L (p. 134) writes as follows:

> In music the English cling to an archaic and unintelligible nomenclature, long since abandoned in America. Thus they call a double whole note a b r e v e, a whole note a s e m i b r e v e, a half note a m i n i m, a quarter note a c r o t c h e t, an eighth note a q u a v e r, a sixteenth note a s e m i - q u a v e r, a thirty-second note a d e m i s e m i q u a v e r, and a sixty-fourth note a h e m i d e m i s e m i q u a v e r or a s e m i d e m i s e m i q u a v e r. If, by any chance, an English musician should write a one-hundred-and-twenty-eighth note he probably wouldn't know what to call it. This clumsy terminology goes back to the days of plain chant, with its l o n g a, b r e v i s, s e m i - b r e v i s, m i n i m a, and s e m i m i n i m a. The French and Italians cling to a system almost as confusing, but the Germans use g a n z e, h a l b e, v i e r t e l, a c h t e l, etc. I have been unable to discover the beginning of the American system, but it would seem to be borrowed from the German. Since the earliest times a great many of the music teachers in the United States have been Germans, and some of the rest have had German training.

In view of the very great influence which Germans have had upon music and music appreciation in America, it would seem that the suggestion of A L is the most likely one. (See l e a d i n g m o t i v e, - f e s t.).

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155) B a b b i t t, p. 66 (Tauchnitz ed.).

SYNTAX

Compounds

A number of syntactical phenomena in American English have been supposed by some to be due to German influence. One of these is the readiness with which the American forms compounds. Of this tendency, A L (p. 106) writes:

> . . . German influence may be behind the general facility with which American forms compound nouns. In most other languages, for example, Latin and French, the process is rare, and even English lags far behind American. But in German it is almost unrestricted. "It is," says L. P. Smith, "a great step in advance toward that ideal language in which meaning is expressed, not by terminations, but by the simple method of word position."

This tendency manifests itself in different ways in America. First, there is the tendency to use the attributive noun. The same characteristic is also observable in British English, especially when the noun so modified is a concrete noun, as in such expressions as d e a t h b e d. In America, however, the tendency has spread to include such modifications of the abstract noun, as in d e a t h t h r e a t. Some attribute this extension to German influence. S. F. Byington, however, writing in A m. S p., believes this phenomenon to be wholly due to the influence of the headline writers, who use the device for the sake of brevity, and scouts any idea of a German influence. He writes:

> The B o s t o n T r a v e l e r lately headlined the selection of Mr. White as "White Selection" . . . if you have a theory that the vogue of the attributive noun is a Germanism, imagine a German saying W e i s s w a h l [156]).

To be sure, in this particular case German could not make such a compound, because of the resulting ambiguity of the term. But it would not be impossible for German to construct the compound H i t l e r w a h l, in which the meaning would be unmistakable. A similar instance could be illustrated in American usage. One can say C a l i f o r n i a e l e c t i o n, meaning an e l e c t i o n i n C a l i f o r n i a; but in the spoken language, the corresponding term M a i n e e l e c t i o n would result in ambiguity. Although it is not necessary to rule out the possibility of German influence on the ground of one single example, it would nevertheless seem that the headline writers are chiefly responsible for this phenomenon, and that their influence is not confined to America, but is being felt in England also. The ten-

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156) S t e v e n F. B y i n g t o n: The Attributive Noun Becomes Cancerous in Am. Sp., II, (Oct., 1926).

dency is merely accelerated in America. Possibly, as a strengthening of an already present native tendency, German may have had some slight influence.

Another characteristic of this compounding tendency, which shows a sharper departure from British English and a more possible German influence is the reduction of the Saxon genitive form to the attributive noun, as in the reduction of butcher's shop, barber's shop to butcher shop, barber shop. The latter are the regular American forms. The British form, with the possessive 's, would sound queer to American ears. The reduction of the proper adjective to the attributive noun, as Californian writer to California writer, is analogous. Whether we have here a German influence or the continuance of an older British custom (cf. China tea), an instance of archaism, can perhaps never be completely settled. Perhaps both.

Adverbial Extensions

Certain American tendencies in the handling of these so-called "adverbial extension" have been attributed to German influence. Fischer writes concerning this phenomenon:

> Dem . . . Streben nach Veranschaulichung dienen . . . viele mit Präpositionaladverbien gebildete verbale Ausdrücke wie to heat up (vulg. he is all het up ‚erhitzt'), to work up (he is all worked up ‚ganz aus dem Häuschen'), to load up 'sich beladen' und ähnliche. Solche "adverbial extensions" werden anscheinend auch im britischen Englisch immer häufiger. Gelegentlich scheinen beim Amerikanischen deutsche Einflüsse die Wahl der Präposition zu bestimmen (etwa amer. to fill out a blank, brit. engl. to fill in a form.) [157]

For a better determination of the possibility of such influence, more examples need to be studied.

Possibly a German influence is to be seen also in the tendency of the American to place the preposition of the "adverbial extension" at the end of the clause, or at least after the object of the verb, instead of immediately after the verb, as in such expressions as brush your hat off (Fischer), he took his hat and coat off, hang your hat up. Much statistical research would, however, need to be done before forming final judgment on this matter, especially since the same tendency is to some extent also observable in England.

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157) Walther Fischer: Amerikanisches Englisch in Handbuch der Amerikakunde, p. 176.

Infinitive Without "to"

1. Examples[158]):
   Listen to me howl. = Brit. Eng. howling.
   Look at him tear his shirt. = Brit. Eng. tearing.
   My job is to help lift the town. = Brit Eng. to lift.
   He helps Mr. R. remove his coat. = Brit. Eng. to remove.

2. Com.: Doubtless, as Fischer suggests, the effort at simplification lies behind this phenomenon of American syntax. However, since the constructions are, as Meysenbug suggests: „dem Engländer zunächst etwas befremdende, ans Deutsche erinnernde Wendungen[159])" the possibility of German influence suggests itself. Such uses in England seem to be limited to certain set phrases, as help me clear the table. Aside from these set phrases, the construction, especially after the verb to help, is seldom encountered in England. In America, the infinitive without to is the regular construction after to help. The construction with to after this verb would sound queer to American ears. The verbs which take this construction in American English are of the same type as those which do so in German. However, regarding this construction, as also the other matters of syntax, much statistical work is necessary to establish definite conclusions. Such an undertaking goes beyond the limits of this investigation.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing investigation, certain interesting conclusions may be drawn concerning German influence on American speech.

It will first be noted that the number of direct borrowings from German, as from other foreign languages, is small. The largest number of borrowed words, as well as translations and half translations, has to do with eating and drinking. Such words may be listed as follows:

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158) The examples are taken from Walther Fischer: Amerikanisches Englisch in Handbuch der Amerikakunde, p. 117.

159) Amerikanisches Englisch, p. 30.

Food

cranberry
frankfurter
hamburger
noodle
pretzel
pumpernickel
sauerkraut
schnitzel
Schweizer-käse
smear-case
speck
wurst (blutwurst, mett-wurst, etc.)
zwieback

Drink

bock-beer
lager
Rhine wine
schnapps

Other Words connected with Eating and Drinking

bake-oven
beer garden
delicatessen
Gesundheit!
katzenjammer
Prosit!
rathskeller
schoppen
seidel
stein

Although the largest single number of borrowings is connected with food or drink, nevertheless borrowings are found in other fields; as, education; cultural life, especially music; entertainment and games, especially card games. These may be so listed:

Education

semester
seminar

Music

leading motive
Men's chorus
Männerchor
Sängerfest (listed under -fest)
See also the expressions listed under MUSIC NOMENCLATURE

Entertainment and Games Connected with Card Games

See

bower	pinocle
euchre	poker
meld	skat

The origin of some of the words in connection with cards is in doubt, but there is a recurring intimation that in some way German has had a connection with the words listed here.

Further in connection with entertainment and games are two words which have to do with more active pursuits than card games, namely:

Schützenfest (listed under -fest)
Turnverein

Not only are there these borrowings and translations in these specialized fields of life, but there are also words and expressions which reflect general attitudes towards life, as in exclamations, slang, and colloquialisms. Under such headings may be noted:

Exclamation

ach!

Slang Words and Phrases

and how!	it listens well
bum	nit, nix, etc.
dumb	nix come erous
fresh	'rous mit 'im
'rosh	(See also the terms under
ausgespielt	MISCELLANEOUS SLANG EXPRESSIONS)

Colloquialisms

(This list includes certain idiomatic expressions)

hold on	want in, off, out, etc.
loaf	yea (h)
spiel	

There are, in addition, words which have to do intimately with the daily living of life, which, however, seem to come under none of the above headings. Such are the following:

dingus	plunder	back-country
dollar	vest	(if admitted)
living-room	wagon	

And there is a still more miscellaneous group which defies classification, to which belong:

Dutch, Dutchie, etc.	kibitz
Hessian	Kriss Kringle
Hessian fly	yammer

Besides the borrowings of single words and of idiomatic phrases, a small number of affixes has also been borrowed, which the American uses to form compounds, attaching them not only to words of German derivation, but also to native words. Such are the following:

Suffixxes

-bund -fest -heimer

Suffixes

Possibly ker-, ka

In addition to these contributions to the American vocabulary, there is a certain possibility, which should be more thoroughly investigated, that German has influenced the thought moulds of the people in ways expressed in phenomena of syntax. For these possible influences, see SYNTAX.

Very few German borrowings, it will be noticed, except such as are common to British English and are therefore not treated here, pertain distinctly to the intellectual sphere. From this fact, the conclusion may be drawn that the German influence is an intimate one, so unconscious and natural as to make most of the adopted words and phrases seem native and indigenous, and not such a conscious and artifical one as would promote the deliberate borrowing of learned words. The nature of the borrowings thus exemplifies the completeness with which the German element in the United States has identified itself with the life and destiny of America, making distinct contributions to that life as it is daily lived by the people.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

I was born on December 5, 1891, at Fort Worth, Texas, U. S. A., as the daughter of Harry William Stone and his wife, Martha Elizie, née Johnson. I am a citizen of the United States, and a member of a Protestant church. Shortly after my birth, the family moved to Kansas, later to Iowa. In 1896, the family removed to Portland, Oregon, which city is still the place of family residence. There I attended the elementary school and the high school. I then (1909—1913) attended the University of Oregon at Eugene, where, in June, 1913, I took the B. A. degree. After further studies in Portland and Eugene, I became a high-school teacher, first in 1916 at Oregon City, later, in 1918, in Portland. This latter position I have held ever since, with the exception of the year 1928—29, during which year I was instructor at Pacific University, at Forest Grove, Oregon. In 1924—25, I received leave of absence to study at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City. I took the M. A. degree there, in June, 1925. In order to continue my philological studies in Germany, I obtained leave of absence for 1927—28 and again for 1932—33.

I am sincerly grateful to all my teachers, but especially to Professor H. Mutschmann, who has given unsparingly of his time and counsel to aid me in the preparation of the foregoing investigation. In addition, I wish to express my thanks to Professor F. G. G. Schmidt, of the University of Oregon, and to Professor Max Deutschbein, of the University in Marburg, who have also given valuable advice, and to Mr. H. L. Mencken, Professor Louise Pound, Professor Cabell Greet, and Mr. Allen Walker Reed, whose letters have helped to shed light on certain doubtful points in the subject under investigation.